

LAST WEEK'S  
AVERAGE DAILY SALE  
436,000

No 63,402

## Britain says no to deadline from Kremlin

### Lasting damage fear in expulsions row

- It is feared the mutual expulsions of Soviet and British diplomats may cause lasting damage to Anglo-Soviet ties
- Britain said it would not comply with the order, and it appears that there may be some form of counter-retaliation
- Moscow gave the British Embassy a week to say how it would implement a reduced ceiling on British numbers
- Sources said that the expulsions of 11 Russians were related to serious issues going to the heart of British security

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain rejected a Kremlin order yesterday to implement cuts within a week in staff working for British organizations in the Soviet Union.

Whitehall sources said the Government had refused to comply with the time limit to implement a ceiling of 205, and had called on the Soviet Union to reconsider.

The sources said Moscow should bear in mind that the total number of staff at its embassy and other organizations in Britain far exceeds the comparable total of Britons in Moscow.

They added that the Soviet Union should "draw the appropriate conclusions", but said this was not meant to be a hint that if Moscow failed to back down, Britain would cut

Soviet staff numbers in this country.

The new developments indicated that there was a risk that the expulsions of Soviet and British diplomats and journalists could, after all, cause lasting damage to Anglo-Soviet relations.

The Government is not thinking of rescinding the expulsions and sources continued to insist they were justified. "We are not talking about serious issues which go to the heart of our national security," one official said.

When pressed on possible additional developments, the sources said that if Moscow insisted on implementing the quota, "we shall have to decide what consequences there would be in this country". This seemed to imply that some form of British counter-retaliation was on the cards.

But an alternative course emerged last night when the Foreign Office summoned Mr Vladimir Ivanov, Minister Counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in London, to see Sir John Fretwell, a senior official. Whitehall sources said Britain would like Moscow to increase the quota to a higher figure, arguing that it had been based on Britain's quota on Soviet officials in London, which was not directly comparable. "They have got to compare like with like," the source said.

Whitehall, in ordering the expulsions, had assumed Moscow would want to avoid a risk that Britain might cut the quota it imposes on the total number of accredited Soviet officials in London. The current figure is 205, the same as that announced by the Russians, but until now Moscow has not imposed a quota, apparently because the number of their personnel in Britain greatly exceeds the number of Britons in Moscow.

Whitehall foresaw a

possibility that Moscow might impose a quota in retaliation, but assumed that it would think twice because of the risk that this might lead Britain to retaliate in kind.

The sources described the Russian retaliation as "ill thought-out" and as "extremely regrettable" and said that the quota was a "bizarre and ludicrous proposal".

Referring to the reasons for the British action, one official dismissed suggestions that the Government had orchestrated the affair to reawaken concerns within the Nato alliance over Moscow's intentions towards the West, and that it had timed the move to cause a row shortly before next week's Nato summit in Brussels.

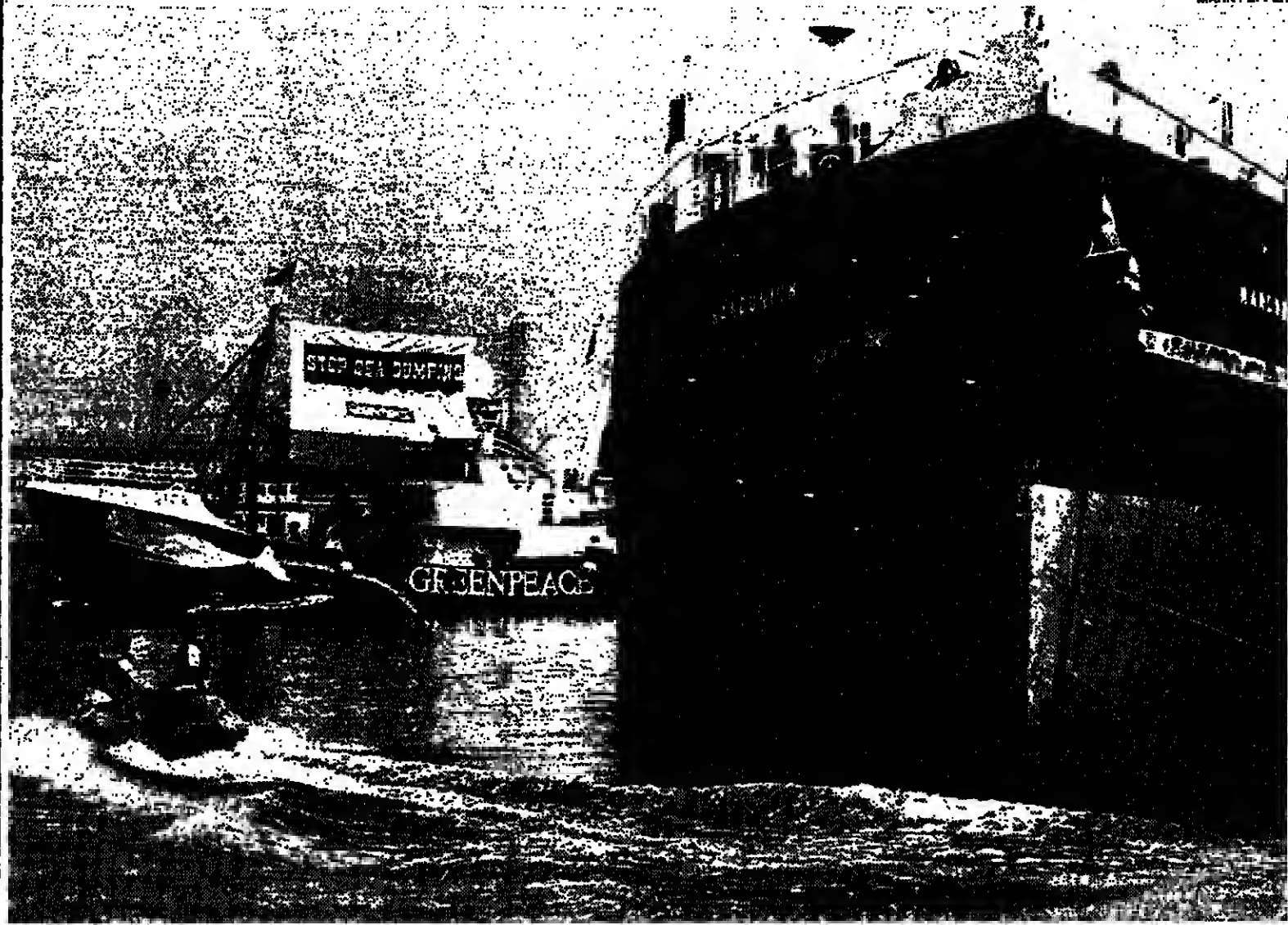
Britain has 41 diplomatic and 29 non-diplomatic officials in Moscow, plus eight teachers at the British American School. There are also about 60 British businessmen and journalists who fall within the Russian quota. The British Embassy has more than 110 locally engaged Soviet staff, while other British organizations have a similar number.

The 205 Soviet or allied officials at the Soviet Embassy and other organizations in which people doing jobs for the British in Moscow employ local staff, such as drivers, cleaners and catering personnel. But Whitehall sources said that there were a further 400 Britons in the UK employed by Soviet organizations.

Earlier in the day it was confirmed that Mr Wan Li, a

## Greenpeace campaigners blockade tanker

MARK PEPPER



Moby Dick, the Greenpeace protest boat, preventing the Mancunium, loaded with sewage sludge, from leaving its dock at Marchwood, near Southampton.

## Key Chinese figure flies home as pressure grows for Li to quit

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking

A protest march several hundred thousand strong yesterday showed how far hatred of Mr Li Peng, China's Prime Minister, has replaced the other preoccupations of the pro-democracy Chinese students. As they marched, Tiananmen Square echoed to chants of "Down with Li Peng", "Li Peng resign", and "We will not sleep until Li Peng is hanged".

The march took place despite a formal ban, and the Prime Minister's inability to make martial law effective has only increased student contempt for him. The ban on live television transmissions by foreign stations was yesterday also suddenly reversed, and some troop units were reported to have been withdrawn from Peking's outer ring road into the hills.

Earlier in the day it was confirmed that Mr Wan Li, a

senior Chinese political figure, who has expressed understanding for the cause of the students, was cutting short a visit to the United States to return home. He chairs the standing committee of the National People's Congress, China's equivalent of a parliament.

The turn in Mr Li Peng's fortunes came as the morale of student protesters on Tiananmen Square appeared for the first time seriously to falter. Peking-based students decided to leave the square overnight to allow students from the provinces to occupy the 90 buses which last week sheltered the hunger strikers.

According to one Peking University student, some of their leaders argued for ending the protest altogether because of the squalid conditions on the square and their failure so far to advance their cause.

Others argued that it would be folly to abandon the protest, having come so close to victory, and they prevailed.

The day also saw a series of incidents which were blamed by the students on agents provocateur but threatened to mar their record for discipline.

Several young people in student headbands threw ink

at the portrait of Mao Tse-tung, revered as the founder of modern China, on the Tiananmen Gate, staining it.

Students apprehended the culprits and covered the portrait, which the authorities last night replaced with a new one.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, there were several incidents on the outskirts of the city involving troops, armed police, students and local people. In one, an armed policeman was said to have been beaten to death; in another, a small girl was crushed by a lorry. The trouble was blamed on outsiders.

In Peking itself, life returned to almost normal. Nearly a third of the buses were back in service and most of the taxis. There was no evidence of the rumoured food or fuel shortages and markets functioned normally. Chaotic media, page 7

Mr Wan Li: Cutting short his visit to US.

## Legal fight over sea pollution

By Mark Souster

The Southern Water authority will today seek an injunction to force Greenpeace to move its protest ship, the Moby Dick, which yesterday began an indefinite blockade of a sewage tanker in Southampton harbour.

The Moby Dick and its 13-man multi-national crew is blockading the Mancunium at her moorings at the Slowhill Copse sewage works at Marchwood.

Greenpeace is protesting at the policy of dumping clinically contaminated sewage sludge at sea around the British coast which it maintains is detrimental to marine life and should be immediately banned.

Britain is the only country which adopts such a policy which the environmental pressure group describes as "disgraceful".

Mr Bill Cutting, the water

Continued on page 24, col 7

### INSIDE

#### Uneasy rider

Despatch riders have become essential to many businesses in recent years. But are they a menace on the streets? The Times Investigates, page 12

#### PORTFOLIO BOND

There was one winner of yesterday's Portfolio Bond prize draw (see page 3). Today's game: page 31

## Poll shows Tory 'split' on Europe

A poll of 32 Conservative members of the European Parliament conducted by BBC Television has revealed some resistance to the line Mrs Thatcher has taken on the EC. Of the 43 Tory MEPs who were asked to take part, 11 refused. Nineteen of those questioned were in favour of the European Monetary System and supported a single European currency, with five against and eight undecided.

But 25 said Britain should have full membership of the EMS now, with six against and one undecided.

M Jacques Delors, President of the EC commission has been doing a good job according to 17 MEPs with seven opposed to him and eight undecided.

A total of 26 MEPs rejected Mrs Thatcher's fears of an Identikit Europe, with three agreeing and three undecided.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's campaign organiser, last night claimed the poll showed a new split in Tory ranks.

## Law reforms attacked by 100 senior judges

By Richard Ford, Legal Affairs Reporter

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and more than 100 senior judges yesterday warned the Government of a serious threat to the constitution from proposed legal reforms.

They told the Prime Minister and her senior colleagues they had gone too far in their plans for a shake-up of the legal profession. The plans of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, could result in a "potentially very dangerous" transfer of power from judges to ministers, they said. The prospect of a confrontation on constitutional issues will increase the pressure on the Lord Chancellor to offer concessions.

Senior legal figures believe that unless he compromises on the key proposal to create an advisory committee with regulatory powers of the profession, he will find it difficult to get legislation through the Lords.

Report details: page 5  
Leading article, page 17

## Labour EC manifesto launched

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

The Labour Party yesterday urged voters to turn the European Parliament elections into a referendum on 10 years of Thatcherism.

Mr Neil Kinnock predicted firmly that his party would gain seats at the expense of the

Manifesto... 6  
Leading article... 17  
Letters... 17

Conservatives, who hold 45 seats at Strasbourg to Labour's 32 seats.

Labour's manifesto, launched yesterday, declared: "Mrs Thatcher makes enemies in Europe more easily than she makes friends."

"The Tories are virtually isolated in the European Parliament."

Continued on page 24, col 2

## Rate fears fuelled by falling pound

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Fears of a rise in base interest rates increased yesterday after speculators turned their attention to the pound.

Pressure mounted after the US Treasury indicated that American interest rates would not be cut to cool the soaring dollar, and the pound closed in London down 1.2 cents at \$1.5680 and 2.34 pence lower at DM3.1485. The Bank of England intervened to support sterling.

Foreign exchange pressures were intensified by forecasts that tomorrow's trade figures will show a widening current account deficit as imports build up in anticipation of a dock strike.

Nervousness was increased when the Prime Minister said in the Commons that the steps the Chancellor had taken would deal with the problem and put inflation on a downward course. This was seen as

a signal that interest rates would not be increased, though the Treasury denied this.

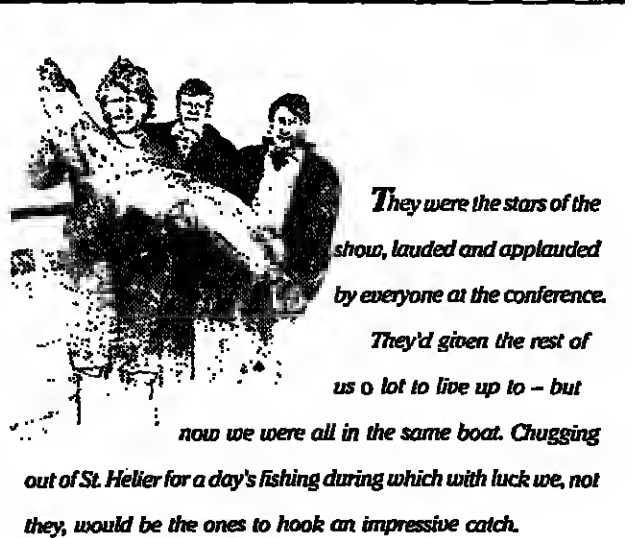
With the lure of higher base rates — the only reason for speculators to hold sterling at

present — wiped away by the Prime Minister, traders felt free to dump the currency.

Mr John Sheppard, of Warburg Securities, said: "Today's movements in the external value of sterling have gone beyond a smooth adjustment and moved into being a crisis."

The Halifax Building Society said even if bank base rates were raised to 14 per cent it would not lift mortgage rates.

Share prices fell again in response to base rate fears and the FT-SE 100 index closed down 17.4 at 2,151.6.



They were the stars of the show, lauded and applauded by everyone at the conference.

They'd given the rest of us a lot to live up to — but now we were all in the same boat. Chugging out of St. Helier for a day's fishing during which with luck we, not they, would be the ones to hook an impressive catch.

Trust Sales to land the big one.

Everything was going to plan until suddenly I realised their chance had come. Great excitement, lots of advice and frantic reeling resulted in them landing the biggest fish I had ever seen.

But as we returned to port, bracing ourselves for the sardonic comments that were all too sure to follow, I started looking on the bright side. I hear that we're re-

booking the Conference in Jersey next year, and there's more than one big fish in the sea...

Send for details to: Conference Director, Jersey Conference Bureau, Weightbridge, St. Helier, Jersey, C.I. Tel: 0534 78000.

Jersey

A break, with convention

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Minister acts to avert flood threat

The Government promised action last night to prevent London and Birmingham being flooded (Philip Webster writes). The move came after a report warned that rising levels could damage big buildings and transport links.

If nothing is done many buildings in both London and Birmingham are at risk from groundwater rising at the rate of 1.6 metres a year. Mr Michael Howard, Minister for the Environment, announced that the new National Rivers Authority would look at the financial and technical implications of a scheme to reduce rising groundwater levels. It is to examine ways of pumping out the water.

The rising water is adding to the risk of weakened building foundations and flooded basements. Buildings with deep foundations in the City of London, Battersea, Fulham, Lambeth, Victoria and Westminster could be at risk.

## Museums Year show

The Frank Pick Gallery at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden Plaza opens its first exhibition today, "Piccadilly Circus - the heart of London" (Simon Tait writes). The exhibition tells the story of how the world's most famous junction was developed, above and below ground.

In a Times Museums Year event, Times Passport holders and guests are invited to a private view of the exhibition from 6.30 pm to 8 pm tonight, as well as a chance to see the rest of the museum for £2 a head with wine included.

## Welsh development

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Wales, yesterday announced the formation of Welsh Development International, a new body to attract more foreign investment, as part of his personal drive to boost the Welsh economy. Wales secured 22 per cent of foreign investment in Britain last year. The new body, which replaces the Welsh Development Agency's Winvest investment arm, is being set up to capitalize on the single European market in 1992.

## Cuts appeal fails

The Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed an attempt by Mr Frederick Coris, aged 74, to overturn £5.8 million spending cuts by Bradford City Council that were pushed through on the casting vote of the city's Lord Mayor, Mr Smith Midgley. Lord Justice Neill rejected claims that Mr Midgley had not acted impartially.

Law Report, page 29

## Border smuggling

Cattle-smuggling across the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic - in order to make false claims for EC farm subsidies - still persists despite efforts by British and Irish border officials to stamp it out, according to a report published today by the Court of Auditors, which monitors EC expenditure (Peter Guilford writes from Brussels). It says Britain has a higher incidence of fraud resulting from exchange rate disparities than any EC nation.

## 'Slimming pills' ban

Slimming pills containing high levels of guar and locust bean gums are to be banned as a potential health risk, Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes). The ban, effective from June 13, was welcomed by doctors. The gums cause the pills to swell in the stomach, dulling the appetite, but cases have been reported from Australia, Sweden and West Germany in which they swelled in the throat and caused an obstruction.

## Staff wastage at MoD is 'catastrophic'

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence's Procurement Executive, responsible for spending £8.5 billion a year, is so gravely understaffed that it can no longer adequately police the defence industry, an all-party committee of MPs said yesterday.

There was a "catastrophic haemorrhaging" of the executive's best white-collar staff, many going straight to defence contractors. Millions of pounds of taxpayers' money was being wasted because of delays in procurement and in verifying contractors' bills. Huge amounts were being spent on hiring outside agency staff to plug the gaps, the MPs said.

Ministry officials had themselves admitted to the Commons select committee on defence that staff shortages were "damaging the efficiency with which the executive is able to carry out its procurement programme, leading to higher... procurement and in-service costs, delays and higher risk levels."

The Conservative-con-

trolled committee referred to recent allegations of financial impropriety by defence contractors and said: "The balance of commercial advantage is moving towards the defence industry as suppliers, and away from the MoD as customers. This cannot be in the public interest... the present situation cannot be allowed to continue."

The committee, chaired by Mr Michael Mates, the senior Conservative backbencher, disclosed that the 32,000-strong executive was 12 to 16

per cent below establishment overall, but that figure disguised some critical shortages, particularly in the South-east. Shortages of secretaries had reached 30 per cent, and administrative assistants 56 per cent. Under-secretaries were having to do their own photocopying and records were not being kept up to date. Electronic specialists were up to 22 per cent below normal staffing levels, and accountants, responsible for verifying contractors' claims, were up to 23 per cent short.

To plug the gaps, the ministry was paying an average of £51,300 per man-year for agency staff, and up to £100,000 a year for computer staff.

In some cases, former Civil Servants working for agencies were being paid those rates to return to their old jobs. In other cases, servicemen were being drafted in to do civilian jobs although they were sometimes twice as expensive.

Some agency staff left the executive and went straight to defence contractors. Where

that happened, "the potential for impropriety is unacceptable", the MPs said.

The committee said low pay was the root cause of the executive's problems. Administrative assistants began on £4,500 with a £1,750 London weighting. "It is hard to see how anyone can afford to live in London on such a salary."

Higher up the scale, the private sector offered salaries as much as 50 per cent higher than the Civil Service. The ministry itself admitted to a "catastrophic haemorrhaging" of engineers, scientists and administrators in their early 30s, an "alarming" number going to defence contractors.

That diminished the executive's ability to secure value for money on its contracts. It aroused fears of impropriety. It also meant "the Government is paying the training costs of the private sector."

The report said: "For the most part it is the best that leave... The fall in the overall quality of executive staff, with the transfer of expertise to the defence industry, is a most disturbing trend."

The executive was locked into a vicious circle in which staffing shortages lead to poor morale and poor morale leads to people leaving and so even worse staff shortages.

Government recruitment drives had failed to solve the problem. The committee said low pay would undermine plans to boost recruitment by relocating parts of the executive outside London.

Defence Select Committee: Staffing Levels in the Procurement Executive (Stationery Office: £8.70).

## Captured Argentine radar to trap low-flyers

By Michael Hornsby,  
Agriculture Correspondent

Argentine radar equipment captured during the Falklands dispute is to be used to service next month's Royal Air Force pilots over Cumbria.

"Up to now it has been a question of RAF police going out with a clipboard and visually monitoring infringements of the regulations", an RAF spokesman said yesterday. "But it is notoriously difficult for even a seasoned airman to judge the height and speed of low-flying aircraft."

The Ministry of Defence is now

planning a public demonstration of its new aerial speedtrap at its Spadeadam bombing and electronic warfare range near Carlisle, in Cumbria.

Pilots are not supposed to fly lower than 250 ft and at a maximum speed of 450 knots. But there have been frequent complaints from villagers and farmers, and the RAF has paid compensation to farmers whose cattle have dropped dead or miscarried because of low-flying aircraft.

The Swiss-made radar system, known as Skyguard, was designed to work with 35 mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns, and was used by Argentine forces to track

attacking British aircraft. RAF technicians have adapted it to provide an instant read-out of an aircraft's height and speed. It can be towed by a Land Rover and has already been used successfully in trials. It will be deployed in areas where there is a lot of low flying, such as the Borders, Wales, Northumberland and the Lake District.

Mrs Anne Dagg, who farms 600 acres with her husband, Ian, at Crailing, in Northumberland, near the MoD's Otterburn weapons testing range, said they had a bull die of fright and a heifer give birth to a dead calf. "The noise of these aircraft is absolutely unreal."

## 'Watchdog' office says BT has more to do

By Colin Narbrough

The "steady improvement" made by British Telecom last year in its quality of service was praised yesterday by Professor Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Director General of Telecommunications. But he added that standards could still be higher.

"More needs to be done before I can be fully satisfied," he writes in the annual report of the Office of Telecommunications, the industry watchdog.

He acknowledges, however, that a recent opinion survey showed that 83 per cent of customers are "highly satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with the service they are getting.

Sir Bryan says he was particularly pleased to have reached agreement with BT about the company's accepting some contractual liability for delayed fault repair and installing new lines.

He sees the agreement as having broken new ground in

the regulatory field and representing an "important safeguard" for customers.

Despite the improved quality of service, the report shows that the number of complaints and general inquiries to Ofel last year fell only slightly to 23,782. Disputed telephone bills were the main issue.

Sir Bryan says this suggested that the number was more closely linked to customers' awareness of Ofel's existence and ability to help than to BT's performance.

Ofel is giving priority this year to BT's procedures for handling complaints. It wants the company to implement its own system to speed up the processing of problem cases and operate satisfactory controls on the quality of complaints handling.

On the reliability of public call boxes, for which BT has been heavily criticized in the past, Sir Bryan notes that competitive pressures and action by Ofel has had a "strongly beneficial effect".

Joint Ofel-BT surveys have shown that BT had by the end of March exceeded its target of having 90 per cent of call boxes working.

On the subject of car phones, Sir Bryan reports significant dissatisfaction. Problems include a lack of information to customers, poor installation and significant problems with the networks.

The success rate in getting calls through in congested areas is bound to be lower than with normal telephones, he says. "There is nothing wrong with this provided operators are as efficient as possible and customers are given adequate information to understand the service they can reasonably expect."

Sir Bryan reports "good progress" by BT's rival, Mercury, in providing competition in long-distance communications, but says a continuing regulatory presence will be required to ensure the competition is effective.

## Loyal isle greets 'our Duke'



The Queen on a walkabout with Sir Charles Frossard, the Bailiff of Guernsey, yesterday.

From Alan Hamilton  
Guernsey

Emerald green dress and hat shimmering in the heat, the Duke of Normandy stepped ashore in Guernsey yesterday to be greeted by welcome banners in local French patois; prayed at alternately in French and English; addressed as *Majesté*, but assured of the dukedom's unwavering allegiance to the British Crown.

Although there has not really been a dukedom these last few centuries, Channel Islanders enjoy putting up signs reading "Guernsey welcomes the Queen our Duke," and toying with the romantic notion that it was they who conducted the last successful invasion of England in 1066.

Their fierce loyalty stems from the willingness of every monarch since King John in 1210 to let them run their own affairs and charge income tax at 20p in the pound.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen disembarked from the Royal Yacht Britannia, moored for the first time in the harbour of St Peter Port, to begin a three-day visit to the Channel Islands, her first for 11 years.

These being peaceable places with no standing army, the guard of honour on the quayside was mounted by the cadet force of Elizabeth College, a local public school.

Above the Queen a large hoarding on a dockside shed proclaimed *Bienvenue*, the word of welcome in Guernsey French, a dialect now little spoken and barely remembered.

Across the harbour guns fired a salute from the medieval Castle Cornet, last outpost of the royalist troops during the Civil War.

A crowd of several thousand enjoying an island-wide public holiday watched as the Queen was greeted by Sir Charles Frossard, Bailiff of Guernsey, an omnipotent officer who combines the roles of Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and head of the Civil Service. The Queen drove through the crowd-packed narrow streets

of the old town of St Peter Port to a modern leisure centre where, in a large gymnasium, 1,800 Islanders, chosen as a cross-section of the population, heard the Sheriff of Guernsey announce the arrival of "Sa Majesté la Reine et Son altesse Royale".

The Dean of Guernsey recited the Lord's Prayer in French, and the Bailiff delivered - in English - a loyal address in which he spoke of Guernsey as "the proud fragment of the ancient Duchy of Normandy".

The Queen recalled that when she first visited the island in 1949 it was still recovering from the dark days of occupation. "Now, 40 years later, prosperity has returned and the future is bright."

After a walkabout in the town's winding High Street, the Queen opened Guernsey's new £17 million marina.

The Queen waved to the boats, and their hooters replied with a cacophony of peeps, poops and flatulent buglings that required no translation.

## Three UK chessmen in the lead

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

After four rounds of the Watson Farley Williams grandmaster tournament in the City of London, three British players are in the lead.

Michael Adams, aged 17, from Truro, Cornwall, beat Patrick Wolff, the American, in round four, and Daniel King, Britain's most recent grandmaster, won his game against Colin McNab of Scotland.

Mihai Suba, the Romanian who defeated to England last year, won his game against Julian Hodgson of Britain.

Adams' score of three points from four sets him on the path to achieve a grandmaster result. He is on course to become Britain's youngest grandmaster yet.

Leading scores after four rounds: Adams Suba and King 3 points; Wolff 2½; Bent Larsen (Denmark) and Keith Arkell (England) 2 (one adjourned game).

Other results from round four were: Matthew Sadler (England) lost to Larsen; Keith Arkell beat his wife Susan Arkell; Michael Wilder, the American champion, drew his game with Nigel Davies (England); and William Watson (England) drew with Paul Motwani (Scotland).

The Watson Farley Williams tournament, one of the strongest to be held in London in recent years, continues at the Minorities in the City of London until June 1.

By Kerry Gill

Support for strikes in the North Sea oil and gas industry began to crumble last night when men voted to return to work at BP's Forties Field.

Elsewhere, bannisters insisted the industry faced a "summer of discontent".

Unofficial action in pursuit of pay increases and a safety review has involved almost 1,000 men and has spread to 12 offshore installations, but most of the strikes have lasted only 24 hours.

Lack of support for men in the Forties Field was relayed to a meeting in Aberdeen yesterday attended by "bears" - the North Sea oil and gas industry's term for construction workers.

Mr Thomas Lafferty, area official of the construction section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said: "They felt that once they had gone on indefinite stoppage everyone else in the North Sea should have done the

same. We told them not to be despondent, the action they have taken and the support they have received is tremendous."

The Offshore Industry Liaison Committee meeting was split over what action to take. Some demanded an all-out stoppage, but union leaders emphasized that legislation required a ballot to be called first.

Others among the 100 workers at the meeting favoured a rolling programme of disputes. Mr Jim Fleming, an offshore scaffolder who jointly chaired the meeting, said: "We have shown the oil companies we are prepared to take action. This is not the be-all and end-all of a strike in the North Sea. This is just the beginning."

Mr Roger Lyons, assistant general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, told the union's annual conference in Bournemouth: "The employees of the oil multinationals and the offshore construction companies have been treated as second-class citi-

zens for too long." He said employers were trying to keep the true extent of the action secret.

It started at the weekend when the Forties Field men downed tools after the breakdown of negotiations between unions and the contractors, Press Offshore. The workers want an extension of the Offshore Construction Agreement, which applies only until an oil platform becomes operational.

Men on other installations joined the action when news of it spread. However, some had already finished their 24-hour protests and resumed working yesterday. Mr Frank Doran, Labour MP for Aberdeen South, told yesterday's liaison committee meeting that a two-class system operated in the North Sea. Men employed directly by the oil companies received better pay and conditions than those working for contractors.

He said the dispute was not just about pay. "You know how many bodies we have had to carry out of the North Sea. It is this issue you are fighting for."

# WHY LIVERPOOL BUSINESSMEN FLY DIAMOND SERVICE TO HEATHROW.



"WITH BRITISH MIDLAND, I DON'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME DRIVING TO MANCHESTER."

MR N. KEARS, G&J GREENALL LIMITED, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

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# Hillsborough police rejected approaches on ticket allocation

By Peter Davenport

Police commanders in charge of the FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough last month rejected appeals to change the way the ground was allocated to rival supporters.

The public inquiry into the disaster in which 95 supporters died was told yesterday that the Football Association, Liverpool FC and Sheffield Wednesday had all made approaches in an attempt to change police plans so that Liverpool supporters could be accommodated.

The appeals were rejected because officers believed their plans were the best way to segregate supporters and avoid the risk of public disorder.

The disclosures were made by Chief Supt Brian Mole on the sixth day of the hearings. Mr Mole was in charge of the division covering Hillsborough until he was appointed to a new command three weeks before the semi-final.

Mr Mole, an experienced officer of the South Yorkshire force, was the first police witness to give evidence before Lord Justice Taylor. Mr Mole was also in charge of planning for the 1987 and 1988 semi-finals.

He told the inquiry that the plans in 1987 and 1988 had worked successfully and were largely unchanged this year.

He said it had been decided that teams from the South were allocated the south side and the Kop at Hillsborough while those from the North were given the north stand and the west side, including the Leppings Lane terraces.

Consideration had been given to other methods of deployment but on balance he said it was felt those proposed

by the police were the most appropriate way of achieving segregation and also took into account recommendations by Mr Justice Popplewell in his report after the Bradford fire.

The inquiry has heard about dissatisfaction among Liverpool supporters over their allocation of fewer tickets than Nottingham Forest although they traditionally have the largest travelling support.

Mr Mole said he told the



Chief Supt Mole  
● You could change ends but the danger would be too great ●

FA, Liverpool and the Sheffield Wednesday club that he was only prepared to police the match under the plans laid down by the police. He said he was aware Liverpool was making a formal objection to the FA over the allocation.

He said it was a sad fact of life that although the majority of football supporters posed little or no difficulty for the police, they had to cater for the behaviour of the minority.

"We must find a method of maintaining the most positive

and realistic segregation for the benefit of all, so they can attend sporting events without difficulty or danger.

"Yes, you could change the ends but the danger and risk would be too great," he said.

Mr Mole rejected suggestions from Mr Andrew Collins, QC, counsel for the inquiry, that police plans did not cater for the sudden, late arrival of a large number of supporters.

He said the same number of supporters was catered for in 1987 and 1988 and it was a change in behaviour of fans that caused the difficulties, not the facilities at the Leppings Lane end.

He denied a suggestion that the access difficulties formed by the design of the ground at the Leppings Lane end meant the situation there was "on a knife edge".

Mr Mole said supporters arriving without tickets were a problem and it was difficult to know the best way to deal with them. One way would be for police to have powers to deal with ticket touts, and he suggested it should be an offence to sell or buy tickets for an all-ticket match on the day of the event.

He said the decline in the use of football specials also led to difficulties for police in controlling large numbers arriving in the city.

In 1987 there were 13 trains taking supporters to the semi-final, in 1988 there were three and this year one. That made it more difficult for police to shepherd fans to the ground and to restrict their ability to buy alcohol.

The inquiry continues today.

# Heat takes its toll at Chelsea

By Ruth Gledhill

Dozens of visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show collapsed and fainted in the sweltering heat yesterday.

Some who brought umbrellas, expecting the showers that were forecast, used them instead to shade themselves from the sun. Others sunbathed or crowded under the few available trees rather than look at the flowers.

The St John Ambulance Brigade brought in extra volunteers and by lunchtime had treated 110 people, at least three times the average number of casualties on previous years. Most had fainted, or collapsed with blisters, wearing new shoes bought especially for the show.

Mr Peter May, divisional superintendent, said: "I have been coming to Chelsea for ten years and I can't ever remember it being as bad as this. We have made provision, we have brought in extra equipment. If it stays like this, I anticipate a busy week."

Mr Stephen Bennett, shows director for the Royal Horticultural Society, said it was the hottest Chelsea he could remember.

Cooling his feet in the Primrose Hill Nurseries prize-winning rockery pools, he said: "It does bring problems, but everyone prefers it to a cold, wet show. People are exhibiting flowers that have never before been seen at the show."

"Normally, people turn up with raincoats, Wellington boots and umbrellas. This year, everyone is coming to sunbathe."

Exhibitors have been forced to change displays at the last minute as traditional May flowers go past their best and tropical plants, cacti and lilies bloom weeks early.

Mrs Mavis Sweetingham, the show's first woman manager, said many exhibitors were suffering the expense of replacing wilted plants. "But everyone enjoys it when it is hot," she said.



Mr Stephen Bennett, RHS shows director, cooling off in a rockery pool yesterday.

# £2,000 for sole winner

The £2,000 portfolio prize was won by Mrs Barbara M Toothill, of Leeds. Portfolio Bond Redemption winners were Mr N L H Somerset-Leake, of Southampton, Hampshire, £50; Mr M K Addison, of Broseley, Shropshire, £50; and Mrs E Victor, of Ealing, West London, £1,000.

# Ruling on Lonrho plea today

By Sheila Gann  
Political Staff

Five law lords are expected to rule today whether they consider themselves fit to hear the case against Lonrho and the Observer in which the directors face fines, imprisonment or sequestration of assets for contempt.

Lawyers acting for Mr "Tiny" Rawland, the head of Lonrho, Sir Edward Du Cann, its chairman, and Mr Robert Dunlop and Mr Paul Spicer, its directors, have challenged the right of the law lords who initiated the contempt proceedings in act as "prosecutor, judge and jury".

Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, for the four men, said the law lords should not hear the case because they had chosen "effectively star chamber methods" instead of handing the case over to Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General.

If the law lords do not allow Sir Patrick to decide whether to send the case to the Crown Court, the Lonrho directors want a fresh set of law lords.

# Kidnap pair get 6 years

By Craig Seton

Two members of a kidnap gang were each jailed for six years yesterday for abducting a wealthy Kuwaiti businessman and holding him for a ransom of £1.5 million.

Danielle Peumans, aged 42, a secretary and former air hostess, from Brussels, and Eddy Doucet, aged 31, a diamond dealer from Antwerp, had pleaded guilty at Northampton Crown Court to kidnapping Mr Walid al-Humaidh, aged 38, from a cottage at Brixworth, Northamptonshire, and falsely imprisoning him at a house in Cricklewood, north London, last September.

The court was told that another Belgian diamond dealer, Willy Schroyens, had recruited the pair to force Mr al-Humaidh, his former business associate, to repay \$2.6 million he claimed the Kuwaiti owed him for diamond deals.

Yesterday, Mr Schroyens was free on bail in Belgium as Peumans, his girl friend, and Doucet, his brother-in-law, began their sentences.

He fled before the kidnap went wrong and police freed Mr al-Humaidh after five days. No ransom was paid. Mr al-Humaidh is believed to be at home in Kuwait.

# Pilkington home raided

# Widow faces men in black at door

By Ian Smith

Lady Pilkington, widow of the glass company millionaire, told yesterday how she was confronted by three black-clad, masked men at her home who demanded her jewellery and threatened to hold her mother hostage.

The raiders stole nearly £100,000 after breaking into Windle Hall, on the outskirts of St Helens, South Yorkshire, the Pilkington family home since 1831. Three thieves stole items worth £50,000 from Lady Pilkington's bedroom seven years ago and a link has not been ruled out.

In this week's raid, just before midnight on Monday, Mrs Madge Caffrey, aged 89, was held under guard in her bedroom and her daughter, Lady Pilkington, was ordered to open the safe which contained jewellery. Both women were then locked in a bathroom while the gang rifled the house.

Lady Pilkington, aged 69, said yesterday: "I was about to put the alarm on before I went to bed when I heard a noise in my bedroom. Then when I opened my bedroom door I saw three men stood there dressed in black. One seized her, twisted her arm

and warned her not to make a sound.

"I thought I was going to be raped or murdered, and screamed out at them not to hurt my mother, who was asleep in the next bedroom. They said no one would be hurt as long as I gave them all my jewellery, so I told them to take everything that was in the bedroom."

Lady Pilkington was warned that unless she revealed the whereabouts of other valuables her mother would be held hostage. "I knew I had no choice but to do what they told me so I opened the safe and they helped themselves," she said.

After the raiders left, an anonymous telephone call made to a local private hospital said two women at Windle Hall needed help. Police were sent.

Yesterday Mrs Caffrey said one "cheeky burglar" told her she deserved a bravery medal for trying to talk them out of the robbery. "I did not want any burglar to think they were going to get the better of me so I told them they were being stupid and asked them when earth they thought would want to buy our belongings."

# Heatwave stirs memories of the long summer of '76

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The conditions creating the recent heatwave over much of Britain strongly resemble those leading up to the long hot summer and drought from May 1975 to August 1976, according to a leading weather scientist.

Dr Allen Perry, of the University College of Wales, Swansea, was one of a team commissioned by the Institute of Geographers to produce the official atlas of the 16-month drought, portraying the meteorological circumstances and their impact on water supplies, agriculture, property and the environmental fire hazard.

He said yesterday that there were a number of similarities between then and now.

They included the warm sea surface temperatures that persisted through last winter and signs of a repetition of the circulation pattern of the atmosphere that produced dry anti-cyclonic weather. He said an analysis of past hot summers showed that 80 per cent started in much the same way.

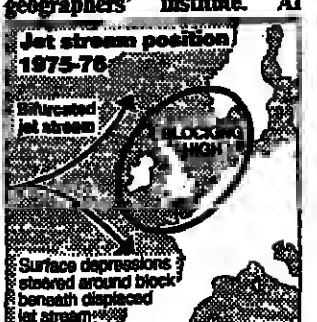
The peak temperatures recorded yesterday were the warmest for May since 1952, but were still a long way from the records set in 1922 and 1944 when temperatures were in the 90s.

However, he said some water authorities should escape the troubles of 13 years ago

because downpours in March and April recharged reservoirs supplying Wales and the south-west of England.

But areas of central England and East Anglia that depended on natural underground reservoirs could suffer shortages.

The failure of the type of rain-bearing cyclonic circulation in 13 of the 16 months of the drought should not occur by chance more than once every few hundred years, according to the study for the geographers' institute. At



though a definitive cause of the drought was difficult to identify, the period was accompanied by an unusual coldness in the Pacific Ocean, which has occurred again, and displacement over the northern hemisphere of the jet stream that steers the circulation of the lower atmosphere.

Large persistent blocking anticyclones, such as the one that has dominated the recent weather, diverted rain-bearing

depressions far to the north of their normal tracks.

Because of the importance of the exchange of heat between the sea surface and the atmosphere in creating weather, the scientists believe that the receding margin of the Polar ice sheet could have an effect on the jet stream which meanders south of the ice edge along a zone between Scotland and Iceland.

During the drought, the extreme northerly position of the jet stream, 10 degrees from its normal track, became unsustainable and it suddenly jumped in August 1976 to near 50 degrees North.

Insurance companies would be the hardest hit by a repeat of the 1976 drought. Subsidence and cracking of house foundations generated an estimated £100 million of claims against the companies, who continued to pay out for several years afterwards.

The worst-hit areas were in the South-east, where shrinkage of the clay soils typical of the region led to structural damage to houses.

The Prudential, one of the largest home insurance companies, said last night that it had contingency plans to deal with a repeat of 1976. "We are prepared for a drought, and have re-insurance to cover costs if we have a serious one," the company said.

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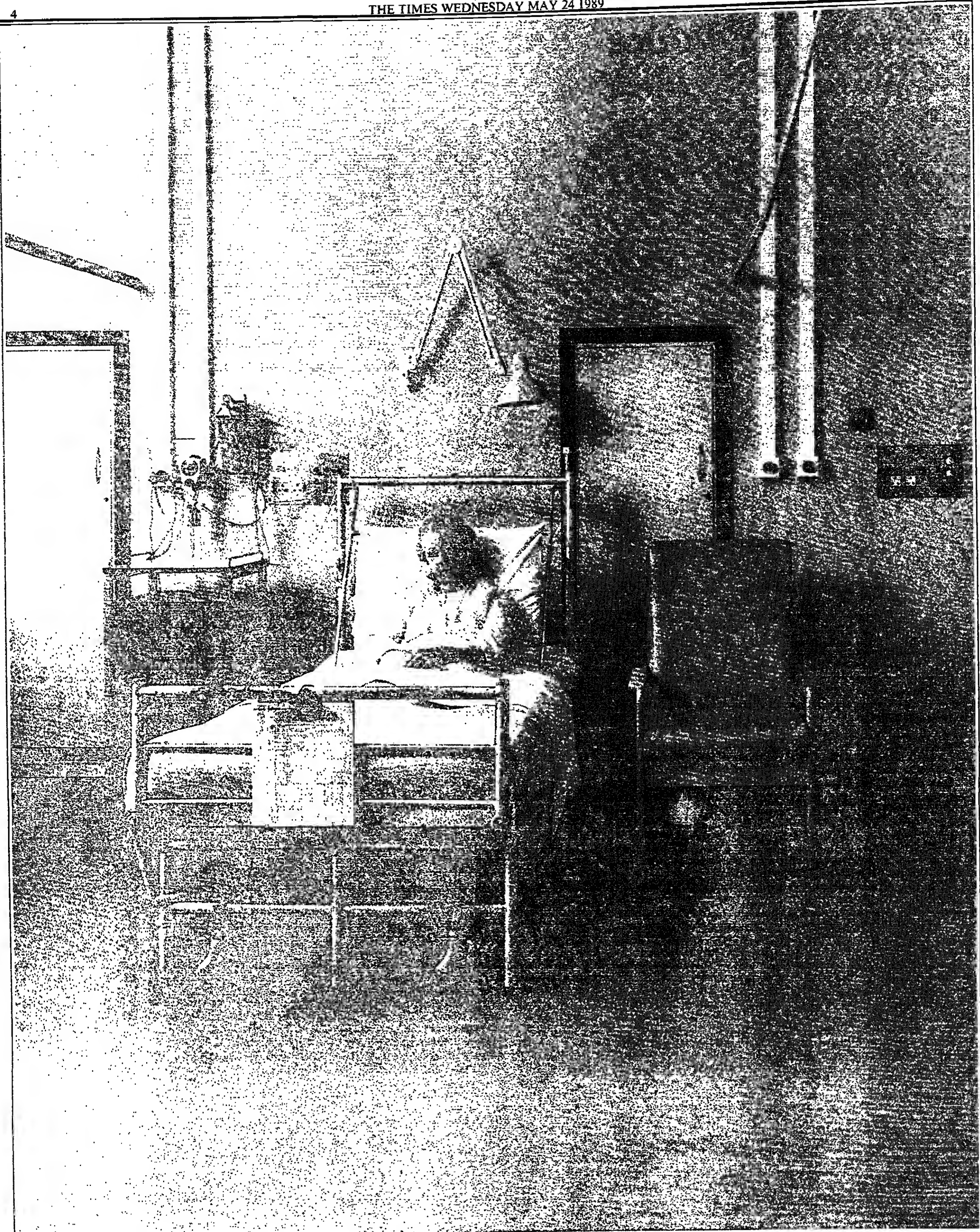
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## WHEN YOU'RE 50 MILES FROM HOME, EVERY WARD IS AN ISOLATION WARD.

If the Government gets its way the local full-service hospital may soon be a thing of the past.

Patients could have to travel long distances for treatment, far away from friends and family.

Being ill will be a lonely business.

The Government is encouraging hospitals to opt out of the control of local health authorities.

They will be free to decide what range of services they offer and how much profit they make.

The pressure to concentrate on profitable patients will be overwhelming, as it is in America.

The elderly, the chronically sick and long-stay patients could find themselves shunted from pillar to post.

In the Government's sharp new Health Service, making

medicine pay could become more important than making people well. No wonder, every major medical body in the U.K. has expressed their opposition to the White Paper as it stands.

So far, Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Thatcher have turned a deaf ear; but it's not too late. Before the White Paper becomes law, let your MP know what you think.

It's your Health Service; it's time you had your say. **BMA**

THE NHS. UNDERFUNDED, UNDERMINED, UNDER THREAT

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# Kinnock seeks community of co-operation

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

Labour's manifesto for the European Parliament elections, released yesterday, sets the seal on Labour's final conversion to support for the European Community after a history of bitter internal feuding on the issue.

Calling for the use of Europe's combined strength to tackle common problems, it concentrates on attacking the Government for failing to prepare Britain adequately for the single European market in 1992.

It depicts Mrs Margaret Thatcher as being "out of sympathy with the European agenda", highlights women's issues and calls on the electorate to express a judgement on 10 years of Thatcherism.

Slimmer and less detailed than the 62-page Tory manifesto, Labour's document, *Meeting the Challenge in Europe*, is not so sharply focussed on specifically European issues and refers frequently to the party's overall policy review document issued last week.

Although much effort is concentrated on attacking Mrs Thatcher's attitudes to Europe, Labour too says: "We see the path to future progress as being one of closer and closer co-operation, rather than an attempt to create a united states of Europe."

Labour too says that the time is not ripe for British participation in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. Like the Conservative manifesto it opposes full-scale monetary union and any attempt to harmonize value-added tax rates.

The party insists that Europe in 1992 should not become a fortress Europe closed to the goods of outside producers and it objects to the creation of a centralized tier of government in Brussels. Lab-



Mr Neil Kinnock launching the Labour manifesto yesterday: "We see a path to closer and closer co-operation rather than a united states of Europe."

our also promises reform of what it calls the "continuing nonsense of the Common Agricultural Policy".

Where Labour's approach differs is in its enthusiasm for progress on the social dimension in Europe, with enhanced workers' rights set out in the new social charter, and for co-operation with other European nations on environmental protection.

In a foreword to the manifesto Mr Neil Kinnock says that Labour wants to use the combined strength of Europe

to meet common problems like the threat to the environment, and it sees an urgent need for more investment in education, training and research and development.

He accuses the Tories of blocking or delaying the operation of every progressive Community measure, "no matter how it would raise standards of environmental improvement, trading conditions or educational provision".

Under Conservative government, he says, a visible trade surplus with the rest of

the Community has become a £14 billion deficit, despite Britain's oil revenue advantage. "For them the future is in deregulation without social obligation. To them Western Europe must only be a barrier-free trade group without any co-operative responsibilities. To them, Europe must only be a market, not a community."

The Labour leader calls for a reversal of the centralization of power under the Conservatives and for the collective strength of the EC to be used to encourage change in the

wider world. But he promises: "We will retain in our own Parliament the rights of determination on issues that are of direct and important national interest."

The document claims that 10 years of Tory government — a huge trade deficit, higher inflation than any other comparable country and an under-invested, badly trained, ill-equipped economy — have left Britain too weak to meet the challenges of 1992. It says that Britain lags behind the rest of Europe on rights at work,

maternity leave, childcare provisions and pensions. It declares: "We want to see rapid progress on the social dimension and on environmental co-operation."

Labour, it says, would strengthen the economy, tackle the CAP, embrace the new social agenda, encourage European efforts to protect the environment, work with its EC partners to build strong European industries and begin redressing regional imbalances.

Leading article, page 17

## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The manifesto says: "The European Monetary System, as at present constituted, suffers from too great an emphasis on deflationary measures as a means of achieving monetary targets, and substantial changes would therefore be required before we could take sterling into the exchange rate mechanism (ERM)."

"We do not, however, see any advantage at present in trying to create a full-scale European monetary union".

At his press conference Mr Kinnock explained that a Labour government would not contemplate entering the ERM until there were proper

arrangements for financial support during the transitional period, an expanded role for the social and regional funds in the EC, an agreed EC growth strategy and Britain was able to join "at a competitive rate".

The document calls for a fundamental reform of the Community budget. Labour says: "We want a great improvement in the balance between expenditure on the structural funds and expenditure on agriculture. Furthermore, we do not accept the argument, put forward by the Commission, for the need to harmonize VAT rates or for the ending of zero rating".

It will also insist on widening co-operation to countries

beyond the EC's borders. "As Chernobyl shows, pollution knows no national boundaries".

The document says: "In-

stead of paying no service to the need to deal with atmospheric pollution, Labour will back international measures to reduce acid rain, cut vehicle exhaust emissions and eliminate the use of CFCs. Labour is simply not prepared to see Britain pilloried as the Dirty Man of Europe."

It rejects the idea of a Fortress Europe.

Labour's manifesto calls for a Freedom of Information Act and the restoration of the "democratic rights" of local government. It promises the establishment of a system of democratic regional government in England and Wales and a legislative assembly in Scotland.

It says significant changes are needed in the way the Westminster Parliament handles EC proposals and legislation. Labour's previous policy document called for a European Affairs Grand Committee. The manifesto says:

"We see the path to future progress as being one of closer and closer co-operation, rather than an attempt to create a united states of Europe."

"The solution is not, therefore, to create a centralized tier of government in Brussels to supplant national governments but to ensure that the extensive and growing European co-operation we seek is properly responsive to the UK Parliament and to the British people."

It rejects the idea of a Fortress Europe.

Labour plans to highlight women's rights issues during the European elections campaign and has drafted a front-runner, Ms Marjorie Mowlem, on to the campaign team to co-ordinate its efforts.

She told the press conference to launch the manifesto that Britain was the only country in Europe which taxed workplace nurseries, that it had the shortest period of maternity benefits (21 weeks in Italy and 32 weeks in West Germany) and that it had been taken before the European Court on sex discrimination cases more often than any other EC nation.

The manifesto promised that it would be a central objective of the next Labour

government to change the balance of power in Britain and achieve real equality between the sexes. It says Britain is behind its European counterparts on childcare provision, maternity rights, pensions, pay, protection for part-time workers and working hours for mothers.

It accuses the Tories of blocking EC proposals on parental and family leave, pro-rata rights for part-time workers and protection for home-workers.

The document says that Labour "wants" to establish a range of childcare services for the welfare and education of under-5s and older children out of school and that it "aims" to give families better child and maternity benefits.

## PREPARING FOR 1992

Labour's manifesto says that Britain is "dangerously ill-prepared for the competitive world of the 1990s, when North Sea oil will no longer be such an advantage".

There is a "huge skill gap" between Britain and its competitors, who have invested more in training, research and new technology.

Britain is steadily losing its share of world markets. The documents issues a warning that unless something is done, after 1992 "jobs and investment will drain away from Britain to the more prosperous parts of Europe" and more and more of our industries will be sold to the highest bidder. "On present form 1992 will be a disaster for Britain rather than an opportunity."

Labour says the Government has spent millions on

glossy advertising about 1992 but should have identified strengths and weaknesses in British industry sector by sector, and stepped in to help.

The document refers to British Technology Enterprise, the body outlined by Labour in the policy review report, *Meet the Challenge, Make the Change*. It would work with industry to develop high-tech firms.

It says that Labour proposes a new national programme for science, a stronger Department of Trade and Industry and a tough new policy on mergers (takeover bidders would have to prove that the merger was in the public interest).

Labour would boost regional policy by "devolving economic power from Whitehall to new elected national and regional assemblies".

Labour would press for Europe-wide policies for industry. They would include: ● The development of a coherent strategy for industry in Europe to build industries capable of competing with the Americans and the Japanese. ● Co-operation between governments to ensure that multinational companies were not able to play off countries

against each other. ● Co-operative efforts at European level on technological and scientific research. ● The provision of money from the Social Fund to give a new priority to investment in education and training. ● Extra funds for regional development. ● New Europe-wide investment programmes for transport and telecommunications.

Labour favours a system based on countryside management agreements designed to channel support to farmers most in need. It wants to shift the emphasis to food policy and intends to "change the nature" of the Ministry of Agriculture and to establish a Food Standards Agency. It says: "The Common

Agricultural Policy is still desperately expensive, highly wasteful and environmentally damaging. We want to put an end to the scandal which means that every family in the Community has to spend more than £13.50 a week to finance a policy which results in large mountains of unsaleable produce."

Remark that Mrs Margaret Thatcher has blocked "any social legislation designed to improve our working lives", the manifesto warns Labour supporters: "We must not delude ourselves that it will be easy to overcome her opposition. She has her veto and the Single European Act does not allow majority voting on taxes or social improvements." It calls for more Labour MPs in the

European Parliament to fight for social reforms.

The document explains that Labour supports the Community proposals for employees' statutory rights to participate and negotiate with management. "We support a legal right for workers to be informed about major changes in their company."

Labour will back proposals on extending rights to part-time workers, which will benefit many women. "We will end the Tory opposition to the directive on rights for temporary workers. We will lift the Tory-imposed veto on directives covering other such issues as the use of dangerous substances, protection against biological agents at work, requirements for work with visual display units, and equal treatment for men and women."

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The manifesto states: "Labour is enthusiastically committed to the proposals for a Social Europe — a European Community where workplaces are safe and workers are well trained, fully consulted and properly rewarded throughout the course of their working lives, and a Europe where the role and contribution of women is properly recognized."

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## Future of education

# Baker sets out to woo teachers

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, began his public campaign to win the support of teachers last night.

Speaking at the Royal Society in London, Mr Baker said Britain's teachers compared favourably with those of other developed countries.

He has been under considerable pressure to woo teachers, having removed their pay negotiating rights and given the impression that children were being let down in the classroom.

Mr Baker has restarted talks with the main teachers' unions to find that he is in conflict over his plans for on-the-job training and licensed teachers, who are due to enter the classroom this September.

Many teachers have said they would refuse to work with "untrained teachers".

Many of Mr Baker's senior officials and advisers believe his education reforms will stand or fall by the co-operation of teachers. Last

night Mr Baker, giving the inaugural IBM education lecture, said Britain's teachers stood comparison with any in the developed world in professionalism, dedication and imagination.

"In virtually every part of the developed world, governments are taking a new look at the quality of their education systems. They too are examining how to secure for all their children a high-quality education which is broad, balanced and relevant to modern needs in a competitive world," he said.

"When I talk about further action to improve teacher quality, my targets are ambitious. They are deliberately set high. I am seeking to build up on substantial achievement."

"I want a teaching profession which is confident in its professionalism; which sees and responds to the challenge of every child; which is outward-looking and adaptable; and which, above all, revels in the excitement and pleasures

of teaching and learning. We have teachers to be proud of; I want teachers to take pride in what they do."

"The rewards in watching your pupils grow and develop are direct and lasting."

"I believe that teaching will become even more interesting as a result of the implementation of the Education Reform Act. Teachers will still have central responsibility for what goes on in the classroom, and the introduction of school budgets involves them more in decisions about how the school is run."

● Poor pay, increasing work and poor training were blamed yesterday for a decline in the number of senior teachers prepared to be heads.

More heads and deputies are also seeking early retirement, with few wanting to stay beyond 57. The Government has been warned that the situation will worsen.

A survey, commissioned by the National Association of Headteachers, showed that

during the past two years more than 70 per cent of local authorities had difficulties in drawing up shortlists, particularly for primary school heads.

Mr David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "The picture given by the survey is not a disaster but it does show it has got worse over five years."

"It is now more difficult to fill vacancies. There has been an increase in re-advertisements but I was surprised at the extent to which local authorities are unable to fill headships without re-advertising."

About a fifth filled all primary posts without re-advertising, while about half were able to fill all their secondary headships. Half reported that applications had decreased over the past five years and a third said there had also been a drop in quality.

The survey said in 1987-88, about 6 per cent of primary, 7 per cent of secondary and 9 per cent of special school heads wanted to retire early.

with another White Paper demand that the corporation raises more money from subscription services beamed to viewers during night-hours (1am-6am).

Ending the BBC's right to broadcast during night hours on BBC1 or BBC2 would not only hamper plans to expand subscription services, but would deprive viewers of important broadcasting during the early hours — such as coverage of the Olympics.

The proposal to assign the night-hours of one of the BBC's channels to the Independent Television Commission, which would then offer them for competitive tenders to new broadcasters,



## CHINA IN TURMOIL

## Personal ambitions bared by Peking power struggle

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking

According to an inside story going the rounds of intellectuals in Peking, the sequence of events which began with the funeral of Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party leader, in late April and ended in the declaration of martial law and military disaffection a month later, can be traced to a three-cornered power struggle between Mr Zhao Ziyang, the party's new General Secretary, Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Mr Yang Shangkun, the President.

The prize is — or was — political control of China after the death of Mr Deng Xiaoping, aged 84.

Although Mr Zhao and Mr Li have emerged as the chief protagonists in the contest for power, there had been few overt signs of personal rivalry before now, or of the 81-year-old President's personal interest in the subject. The past month's events, however, can

be explained as a series of manoeuvres by an ambitious Prime Minister to win power which is not his by dint of character or personal qualities.

The saga begins in late April, when Mr Zhao set off on a visit to North Korea. The purpose of the visit, on the eve of the Sino-Soviet summit, was probably to reassure the North Koreans that improving Chinese relations with the Soviet Union would not be to the detriment of North Korea. But the visit also gave Mr Li his opportunity.

Within a day of Mr Zhao's departure, the Politburo met with Mr Li, heard a report from the Peking authorities about disruption in the city and agreed on a negative characterization of the student protests. Until then, the leadership had remained neutral.

Mr Li and President Yang then reported to Mr Deng about the Peking authorities' pessimistic assessment of social order in the

capital and their assessment. The result was the April 26 editorial in the *People's Daily* which provoked further protests.

From then until the great student anniversary of May 4, the protests escalated. Students attracted support from many intellectuals in the capital.

On May 4 itself, there was a huge student demonstration. The same day, Mr Zhao — just back from North Korea — addressed the Asian Development Bank meeting in Peking. He included in the speech some conciliatory words about the student protests. At the time, this was interpreted as an attempt to calm the nerves of foreign investors, but it could equally have been a disapproving response to the treatment of the students by the Politburo during his absence.

At this point, Mr Zhao, it is said, was on the verge of persuading the students to abandon their protests and return to classes. The

combination of the May 4 demonstration, which had passed off peacefully despite overwhelming police, and Mr Zhao's conciliatory address, had mollified student leaders sufficiently for them to believe that compromises would be forthcoming.

But a settlement of the student dispute did not suit Mr Li, who the following day summoned leaders of the party organizations at Peking's eight big universities and told them that Mr Zhao's speech to the Asian Development Bank reflected his own personal opinion. He gave a similar briefing to Peking municipal officials. The education committee was told that the students could not be touched now, but could be later.

As a result of their briefings from Mr Li the authorities refused to talk to the students and in particular refused to deal with the newly founded unofficial student movement. This sparked off the hunger strike by 300 students

wanting to safeguard the fate of their leaders.

Meanwhile, the Politburo was under orders to forget about the students and concentrate on preparations for the visit of President Gorbachev. A solution to the student problem, which had then been possible, was thus put off.

On May 14, the day before the Gorbachev visit, police action was considered, but it was decided politically misguided to attack unarmed students with armed police — and this was the only way it was judged that they could be evicted from the square.

The following day, President Gorbachev's programme had to be changed because of the student demonstration in Tiananmen Square. While this was a disgrace for China, it offered hope to Mr Li by demonstrating for all the world to see the disruptive nature of the student protests.

Unfortunately for him, the Chinese public viewed it differently,

remaining favourably disposed towards the students for their discipline and steadfastness.

Mr Zhao repeatedly tried to visit the student leaders on the square, but was advised not to for security reasons. It was not until the night of May 19 that he arrived in person, accompanied by Mr Li, apologizing for coming "too late".

In a last-ditch attempt to save his job, Mr Zhao referred to Mr Deng during his meeting with President Gorbachev as still making the crucial decisions of state. While some saw this as clarification of Mr Deng's position for the benefit of a foreign leader, the students interpreted it as a message to them that Mr Deng, and not Mr Zhao, was responsible for the failure to reach a compromise.

Once the Gorbachev visit was over, Mr Li was able to make his bid for power, trying to discredit Mr Zhao over the disruption to the Soviet leader's programme and the national disgrace this

entailed. Mr Zhao, however, declined to attend the Politburo meeting which drew this conclusion and planned for martial law.

He also refused to resign, thus preventing Mr Li from taking the general secretaryship immediately. If he wants that post, he will have to fight for it through the accepted mechanisms.

No one believes, however, that Mr Li would have been able to intrigue for the leadership alone, and it is speculated that his chief patron is President Yang, who last Saturday explained Mr Li's decision to bring troops into Peking.

While this account may exaggerate the element of personal ambition at work in Peking, it offers a plausible explanation for three developments: the failure of leaders and students to reach a compromise before the Gorbachev visit; Mr Zhao's words "I have come too late," and Mr Zhao's apparent resistance to relinquishing his post.

## Chaotic media finds ways to avoid censors

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

Just a week ago the media in China was enjoying its first taste of freedom. Now, with the imposition of martial law, it is once more subject to government censorship.

Uncowed, some journalists are finding ways to get round this. Diverse opinions are being printed and broadcast, and the chaos in the media reflects power struggles at the highest levels of government.

Even the *People's Daily*, where the Army is now censored, has managed to make pointed comments on martial law through foreign news items. Comments by the Hungarian Prime Minister seemed an unlikely choice for the front page until one read that he had "told military officials that the most hated characteristic of the former Soviet leader Josef Stalin's style was to use the country's military forces to deal with its own people".

The paper also reported that 95 United States senators were to make public details of their property and income. Students want China's top leaders do likewise as an anti-corruption measure.

Yesterday the *People's Daily* led with a speech by Mr Wan Li, the chairman of the National People's Congress standing committee. Speaking

in Canada, he said that the student movement should be supported. A reformer, he is widely seen as the only man who can piece together China's tattered political scene.

The *Liberation Army Daily* used language as hard line as that of Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, in condemning the demonstrations. But *Health News*, a day after the imposition of martial law, carried front-page stories about the heroes of the hunger strike.

On television, some announcements have been racing and stumbling through official martial law announcements. However, great play has been made of the friendly relationship developing between soldiers and students. Pictures have been shown of students and workers offering refreshments to smiling troops.

It is not clear who is controlling the media now. The main television and radio stations are supposedly run by the Army. But diametrically opposing views of the situation in Peking are being broadcast.

Disruption of supplies and communications means that the Army has to restore order, runs one line of reporting. But then there are long items reporting that Peking is calming down. Indeed, said one

radio report yesterday, the only things which frighten the people are the helicopters which noisily hover scattering pro-Li Peng leaflets.

● Taxi protest: More than 2,000 taxis and 10,000 protesters in Hong Kong showed their support for the pro-democracy demonstrators in China by taking turns yesterday to block roads outside the offices of the New China News Agency, Peking's *de facto* embassy. (Our Foreign Staff writes.)

Also yesterday, the colony's Governor, Sir David Wilson, issued a thinly veiled warning to China, which resumes sovereignty here in 1997, about its handling of the unrest.

In nearby Macao, on the Chinese mainland, about 50,000 people took to the streets yesterday to support the students and oppose martial law in the Portuguese enclave's largest-ever demonstration. The protesters, many of them also students, marched through the city from the ruins of St Paul's Church and later held a mass rally at a playground on the waterfront.

Chinese men and women students also marched through the streets of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, yesterday to show solidarity with their colleagues at home.



Resplendent Mao: The huge portrait of Chairman Mao — which hangs on the Gate of Heavenly Peace in Peking — defaced, left, by mysterious splashes of paint, for which students denied responsibility, is being hurriedly draped, right, by workmen.



## Secret crisis of 'suicide student'

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

Mrs Liu Meihua, aged 26, a 5ft tall post-graduate student of public relations who wears a rope of sea pearls around her neck, is the leader of the students' "suicide squad" in Tiananmen Square.

She is one of only six women in the squad of more than a thousand members. Their duty is to protect, until death, the student leaders — "Chairman Mao says that a single spark can start a prairie fire. The leaders are our spark, so if we lose this time we have to keep the spark alive."

The suicide squad was formed on May 20 after the declaration of martial law. Mrs Liu has been its leader ever since.

Mrs Liu's father is in the Army and her parents, who live in Peking, know she is involved in the student movement and are upset she has not been home for so long. They do not know she is in the suicide squad. Exhausted and emotional, she breaks down and sobs as she says she cannot bear to tell them.

This, however, is the least of her problems — she is two months pregnant and becoming weaker every day. She has not eaten or slept properly for five days and says that when she eats she just feels sick.

Her hands are cold, her running shoes and padded navy corduroy coat soaked through with the day's torrential rain. When someone offers her extra woollen clothing, she suggests offering it to someone else.

She has told no one about her pregnancy — a fellow student who overhears her speak about it is sworn to secrecy. Her personal crisis has been subsumed by the crisis facing Peking. Students constantly ask for organizational advice. She responds quickly, always reaching out a hand to touch the student's shoulder or arm in reassurance.

(New York Times)

## Rumours run riot among capital's protesters

From Nicholas Kristof, Peking

Of all the rumours that have swept Peking in the past week perhaps the most astonishing was that in a nefarious attempt to kill demonstrators, the Chinese Government had electrified the metal grates over the city's subways.

Students carefully walked around the grates for a day or two, until they saw that others were walking over them with impunity.

Then the rumoured danger was that the Army planned to drop paratroopers into Tiananmen Square to deal with the students, and demonstrators carefully searched the skies for this new threat from above.

Perhaps it is inevitable that with the newspapers and television stations carefully avoiding the real events, people should rely on rumours. In any

case, some of the rumours are so unfavourable to the Government — but repeated with such absolute conviction — that the authorities may be worse off with the rumour mill than with an independent press.

"Did you hear?" a businessman asked the other day, "Deng Xiaoping is going to retire in the United States. He's got a lot of money there."

One of Monday's rumours said that American bank accounts of Mr Deng's eldest son, Mr Deng Pufang, had been frozen by US banking officials.

Some of the rumours began accurately, but got better each time they are handed on. One rumour started out that Mr Deng, China's senior leader, had declared that it was worthwhile to bring out 150,000 troops in the capital if that would bring China 20 years of stability. That

may or may not have been true, but at least it was plausible. Unfortunately for Mr Deng, a somewhat embellished version was the one that stuck. It quoted him as saying that to achieve 20 years of stability, it was worth killing 200,000 students.

It is easy to see how rumours start in Peking. Throughout the capital, neighbourhood residents have taken charge of local intersections. The people stay up all night, passing the time by exchanging increasingly implausible rumours. Most of the corner-watchers are people who live nearby, but a few are sent by the students' central organizing committee to make sure that all intersections are covered.

The main strategy, if the troops come, is to block their path with people and obstructions and speak to the soldiers and try to convince them

not to attack their countrymen. The students' latest concern is that the Government will use soldiers from remote areas because they speak different languages and may be unable to understand the students' pleas.

The student organizing committee now sends members of minority nationalities to all the main roads where it expects troops may arrive.

Another tactic has been adopted by the "kamikaze" group of workers who roam around the capital all night looking for invading army convoys to bring to a halt. Many of the "kamikazes" now carry knives, so that they can puncture truck tyres, and they often travel with their wives or girlfriends. The idea is that the woman will distract the soldiers while the man slashes the tyres.

WORLD ROUNDUP  
Khomeini 'fine' after operation

Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's 86-year-old leader, had an emergency operation yesterday morning for internal bleeding in the digestive tract, according to an announcement by his private office in the hills north of the Iranian capital (Hafiz Teimourian writes).

Tehran Radio led its main afternoon bulletin with the item, adding that "by the grace of God, the operation was successful" and that his state was "completely satisfactory".

In an interview with the radio and television the Ayatollah's son, Ahmad, said the operation had been carried out with his father's consent "after blood was seen in his digestive system".

## Bonn President again

President von Weizsäcker, left, has been re-elected by a huge majority of the Federal Convention of parliamentarians for another five years (Ian Murray writes from Bonn). He was the choice of 831 of the 1,022 members of this electoral college, supported by all the main parties. Appropriately, for a man who has specialised in making Germans face up to their past in order to build for the future, the ceremony fell on the 40th anniversary of the modern state.



## No deal yet in Nato

The bitter divisions between Washington, London and Bonn over whether Nato should negotiate with the Warsaw Pact to reduce the number of short-range nuclear missiles in Europe are now likely to remain, diplomatic sources said yesterday, until the heads of government meet at the summit in Brussels next Monday (Michael Evans writes). Optimism in Bonn that a compromise was on the cards appeared premature, partly because of Mrs Thatcher's refusal to agree at this stage even to the principle of negotiation, but also because the Americans oppose the term "compromise".

## Polish students rebel

Warsaw (Reuters) — Polish students fought police in central Warsaw yesterday after a court refused to legalize their independent pro-Solidarity union. About 20 protesters were detained and some were seen being beaten with batons and kicked in the stomach inside police vans. Earlier students, packing the biggest hall in the Warsaw regional court, chanted "Away with communism" when Judge Danuta Widawska announced her refusal to accept the union's statutes and register the union as a legal association.

## More tanker charges

New York — Mr Joseph Hazelwood, the captain of the Exxon Valdez accused of being drunk in charge of the tanker, was indicted in Alaska on Monday on three new counts of criminal mischief, arising out of the accident that caused the largest oil spill in US history (James Bone writes). Each carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a \$50,000 (£32,000) fine.

## Body clock runs slow

New York — Miss Stefania Follini, aged 27, an Italian interior designer, prepared to emerge from a New Mexico cave yesterday after learning that she had been living in a time warp (James Bone writes). As an experiment into the effects of long-term isolation, she lived in total darkness in a Plexiglas cubicle in Lost Cave for four months. Asked the date yesterday, she unhesitatingly gave it as March 14.

## Shamir rejects British pressure to talk to PLO

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister of Israel, struck a conciliatory note yesterday on three key issues raised by Britain on his Government's Middle East peace plan. But he rejected Britain's "theoretical formula" in that the question would not arise until the second stage of the plan. This envisages talks between Jerusalem and elected Palestinians representing the West Bank and Gaza.

In his talks with Mrs Thatcher on Monday and with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State, yesterday, the British called on his Government to accept the principle of an exchange of territory for peace.

Mr Shamir made it clear at a press conference yesterday that such an arrangement has

not been ruled out, although he and his Likud party are known to oppose it.

When asked for his reaction to the British pressure, he said that at present it was a "theoretical formula" in that the question would not arise until the second stage of the plan. This envisages talks between Jerusalem and elected Palestinians representing the West Bank and Gaza.

While describing this as only a "detail", Mr Shamir added: "Maybe it will be discussed if the Arab party (meaning the Palestinians) will have accepted the Israeli peace initiative," he said.

The plan has been rejected by the PLO, but Israel does not accept this as final and hopes that support from Britain, the US and other countries will bring pressure

on Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to change his attitude.

Mr Shamir gave no ground at all to British pressure to open talks with the PLO. He implied that Mrs Thatcher had not pressed the point, by saying: "We have discussed our attitudes towards the PLO but I cannot say that Mrs Thatcher asked us to change our view." British sources said, however, that the Government's view had been made clear.

His tone was tough and uncompromising on the PLO's motives and intentions. "We know they say they renounce terrorism, but it is not true. They continue it. They say now their goal is not the destruction of Israel, but

they still explain ... that there is no change in the philosophy and the aims of the PLO.

"The PLO is not interested in any peace with us: what they want is to establish immediately a PLO state in the area ..."

He said a Palestinian state would become "another Lebanon" in that it would attract large numbers of Arab refugees. "So this will become an accumulation of many sophisticated and dangerous arms, all of them directed against the state of Israel."

He predicted that the PLO would try to use the Palestinian minority living in Israel (as opposed to the West Bank

and Gaza) as a "fifth column". Their role would be to seek their integration into the new Palestinian state.

Asked why these views should prevent him talking to the PLO he said: "For the simple reason that by sitting down with the PLO we will recognize their right to be partners in negotiations about peace and we will legitimize their demands; and we don't want to give them this gift."

Mr Shamir expressed satisfaction with the attitudes of the British and US governments. He said Mrs Thatcher had accepted the principles of the plan while underlining details. British sources said, however, that the Government had welcomed it but felt it did not go far enough.

## Violence swelling to fever pitch in divided Hebron

From Richard Owen, Hebron Occupied West Bank

We stared at our car in disbelief. Parked in the centre of Hebron, it was now a shattered mess. Inside, amid the debris and broken glass, lay three large stones and a broken broom handle. The car had had a keffiyeh (Arab headscarf) displayed in the front, and Press signs in Arabic. But it had Israeli number plates, and that apparently was enough.

Arabs crowded round the wreckage, offering sympathy and coffee in tiny china cups. "You cannot refuse," a shopkeeper said. "They will think you are angry with the Arabs of Hebron." He gestured at the street writhing, the raw material of the *intifada*. They stared back.

A four-vehicle Israeli Army patrol screeched to a halt. "Now you understand what we face," a sergeant said, surveying the damage sympathetically. The Arab shopkeeper spat on the pavement. "It was the Jews who did this," he said defiantly. "The settlers."

The peace initiative launched by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, is running a race against time, as diplomatic manoeuvring is outpaced by both Arab violence and a new Jewish backlash against Palestinian stone-throwing, nicknamed the "antifada".

In Hebron, holy to both Muslims and Jews, violence has reached fever pitch. "Any minute now we are going up in flames," said Mr Naom Arnon, director of the Hebron Institute of Judaism and the settlers' spokesman.

The settlers' patience has snapped over what they see as the Israeli Army's failure to protect them. In addition, Mr Shamir's peace plan has aroused deep fears that it will lead to an Israeli withdrawal, leaving the 70,000 West Bank settlers vulnerable to Arab violence.

Hebron is the only West Bank town in which Arabs live alongside a sizeable concentration of Jews. There are 5,000 Jewish settlers in Kiryat Arba, a leafy campus-like sprawl above the old town. There are also 400 Jews in the heart of Hebron, next to the Ibrahiah, in buildings which have long-standing Jewish associations but which the Arabs see as a provocation.

The settlers have set up a computer centre which records the spiral of hatred: 750 separate incidents in the past six weeks involving attacks on Jewish cars and houses. One settlers' leader, Rabbi Yehiel Laiter,

aged 29, was ambushed last week while on night patrol with his vigilante group in an Arab district. He was struck in the back by a stone and knocked forward on to his gun, shooting himself in the leg.

I walked in the heat up the steep, dusty hill to Rabbi Laiter's home accompanied by a settler armed with a machine-gun and a walkie-talkie. As an afterthought, he thrust a hunting knife into his belt.

Rabbi Laiter speaks of the Jewish presence in Hebron in the thirteenth century as if it were yesterday. But for an analogy with current attempts to make the settlers leave the West Bank, he draws on more recent history: "They cannot make Hebron *Judenrein*. The Arabs understand we will not take their attacks lying down."

He predicted that Mr Shamir

would end up trading land for peace. "But we will fight him. We will never be driven out of here ..."

In the rundown Arab district on the opposite hill, the settlers' militancy is matched by a corresponding Arab determination to get them out.

Ahmed, aged 25, said simply: "The Jews have stolen our land."

Does the Shamir plan offer a way out? "The Hebron Governor called us in the other day and asked us to support the election plan," Ahmed said. "I told him elections mean democracy, which means ending the occupation first. He threw us out."

If the Shamir plan was not amended, he suggested, the *intifada* would get worse. How much worse?

"There was a shoot-out near Hebron last week in which Palestinians used guns and an Israeli soldier died," Ahmed said pointedly.

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# Wright fights for political life as hearings begin

From Charles Bremner, Washington

As congressional Republicans watched gleefully from the sidelines, the misconduct case against Mr Jim Wright, the House Speaker, yesterday went before a televised hearing that will prove critical for his political survival.

Lawyers for Mr Wright, the most powerful man in Congress and the second-in-line to the presidency, argued before the ethics committee that it should drop the most serious allegations of financial impropriety against him. Mr Wright faces 99 charges of breaking congressional rules governing gifts of money.

No case of such gravity has been brought against a speaker before. Mr Wright's tribulations, however technical, are being seen by the public as a evidence that Capitol Hill, long dominated by the Democrats, is as subject to corruption as the executive branch which the Democrats have lately been hounding for its "scare".

The Democrats have held the majority in Congress for the past 34 years, and they enjoy a security of tenure — 98 percent are re-elected — that not even the Soviet can now match.

For the House Democrats, the hearing marked a new phase in a political agony that has effectively paralysed the normal workings of Congress for much of this year. On top of the formal charges, a deluge of other allegations have been heaped on Mr Wright following investigations by newspapers and by tax inspectors.

and many Democrats are privately praying that he will resign soon.

With the spotlight now shining on the personal finances of congressmen, the Wright affair has contaminated others, including Mr Tony Coelho, the Whip and Number 3 man in the House.

The Washington Post claims to have found evidence of illicit dealing involving \$100,000 (£63,000) worth of the financial instrument known as "junk bonds". No whiff of any misconduct attaches to Mr Tom Foley, the veteran Congressman from Washington state and Number 2 in the House, who is almost certain to succeed Mr Wright, should he step down.

Though they are publicly standing behind him, Mr Wright has been told by senior Democratic colleagues that unless he knocks down two of the most critical charges against him in the hearings



Mr Wright: Democrats pray for his resignation.

this week, he must step down as their leader.

Even his lawyers are reported to have told him that he would be wise to contemplate resignation if the charges advance to the next stage — a full, trial-like hearing before the ethics panel.

The lawyers want the committee to drop its charge that a Texas businessman who gave a job and free use of a Cadillac car to Mrs Wright and the free use of a flat to her and her husband, had a direct interest in legislation. The second request challenges the charge that the Speaker used a fraudulent scheme involving book sales to sidestep a limit on outside income.

Mr Wright, a fiercely proud man, has vowed to fight to the last, a thought that makes many colleagues squeamish.

The Republicans, led in their anti-Wright campaign by the crusading Mr Newt Gingrich, the Republican Whip, have been surveying the Democratic debacle with little public comment. As Mr Lee Atwater, the national chairman, put it this week: "There comes a time in politics when the best thing to do is follow the Napoleonic maxim: 'Never interfere with the enemy while he's in the process of destroying himself'."

Mr Gingrich likes to compare the House Democrats to some of the most criminally corrupt and incompetent gangs in history. His slash-and-burn tactics, however, leave some of his fellow party members a little uneasy, given

the propensity of members on both sides to indulge in financial practices that might not be readily understood by the general public.

Mr Wright complains bitterly in private that he has been singled out unfairly for activities that are widespread, not illegal and which are pale in comparison with the ways of many congressmen in times now past.

With the heat on these old traditions, the media this week left on the annual "disclosure" statements by congressmen. For example, the 435 members of Congress were paid a total of nearly \$6 million in speaking fees last year, keeping nearly \$5 million for personal use and giving the rest to charity. House rules set a limit to the amount of "bonoraria", or fees, that a member may receive. This amounts to one-third of a congressman's salary, or about \$30,000.

The disclosures showed that Mr Wright was one of the less wealthy among his brethren of senior congressmen, but they did reveal that for the first time in many years he had been able to repay some heavy debts. More than 200 congressmen have now gone on record supporting a ban on such honoraria, though such a move is usually linked to a rise in congressional pay.

The Wright panel is expected to announce its decision in response to the Speaker's request for dismissal of the charges within the next few days.

## Riot widows demand homes



An angry Sikh woman, one of some 500 widows in the riots that followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, shouting her demands outside the residence of her son, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the

Prime Minister, in Delhi yesterday. The protesters claim they were driven out of their homes by the 1984 riots, and have still not been adequately rehoused. They also demanded the prosecution of the men behind the riots.

## 1,700 knocked out by gas leak

Karachi — More than 1,700 people, including 850 pupils, most of them girls, became unconscious after ammonia gas leaked from an ice factory in Hyderabad (Zabid Hussain writes). Forty of the girl pupils are in a serious condition in intensive care.

The gas apparently escaped after an explosion. The pupils of an adjacent school were worst affected, and many of them were injured in an ensuing stampede.

### Retrial delay

Athens (AP) — The Supreme Court here has postponed a decision on ordering a new trial for Nikos Moundis, a former prison warden, convicted of raping and strangling Ann Chapman, a British journalist aged 25, in 1971.

### Live-in law

San Francisco (AP) — Legislators here have approved the first US law allowing live-in lovers publicly to register their partnerships.

### Axe protest

Mbabane (Reuters) — The axe-killing of an elderly British couple, Angus and Phyllis Braham, have provoked housewives in the Swazi town of Manzini to march to the police station demanding more security.

### Political arson

Johannesburg (AP) — A crowd set fire to a home in a black township in Natal province, killing a man and woman and seriously burning two other people, to bring the death toll in political violence since 1986 to at least 2,000.

### Pilot killed

De Kalb (Reuters) — Karen Ulane, aged 48, a pilot who sued an airline, claiming she was sacked because of a sex-change operation, was killed with two other crew members near their Illinois town when their vintage DC3 crashed.

### Family flees

Bad Bramstedt (Reuters) — An East German couple and their child, aged six, crossed the Baltic Sea by night in a rubber boat to reach the West German coast near here.

### Tamer shot

Lisbon (AFP) — Paquito Cardenal, aged 36, the leading Portuguese lion tamer, was fatally shot during a circus performance by a gatecrasher trying to gain admission without paying.

## Kathmandu counts cost of flexing its muscles against Delhi

# Nepal offers talks in effort to end cold war with India

From Coomil Kapoor, Delhi

Nepal is willing to discuss with India not just the disputed trade and transport treaties which are the ostensible reason for the cold war between the two countries, but also to reopen the 1950 special peace and friendship treaty with Delhi, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, the Foreign Minister, said.

This seems a climbdown from Mr Upadhyaya's earlier insistence that talks could not be resumed until a congenial climate had been restored and India had stopped pressure tactics.

But India has yet to react positively to Nepal's latest offer and is in no hurry to make concessions to help King Birendra of Nepal save

face. India is upset over Nepal's efforts to internationalize what it considers a bilateral issue and to portray India as a big bully.

The Indian Government's view is that Nepal has been "illogical, inaccurate, irrational and misleading" in the dispute. Privately, Indian diplomats claim that Nepalese officials have no clear instructions from the King and are themselves confused.

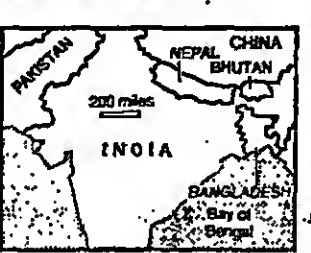
The tiny landlocked Himalayan kingdom has discovered that flexing its muscles against its giant neighbour is a costly experience. India may not have effected an economic blockade as alleged by Nepal, but it has made life extremely difficult. Nepal is dependent

on India for several essential commodities, particularly petroleum and its derivatives. After the trade and transport treaties between the two countries expired on March 23, India simply cut down the number of transit points on the border from 15 to two, and did not enter into fresh trade agreements.

Nepal talked brashly of making alternative arrangements for supplies, but this is easier said than done. Nepal's only other neighbour, China, is unable to help as goods have to cross the harsh and sparsely populated terrain of Tibet.

Nepal's already fragile economy has been severely crippled. The tourist industry, Nepal's main source of rev-

enue, is in a shambles. The usual hordes of summer visitors from India who come for the cool weather, the mountains and the casinos are



missing. Even the best hotels in Kathmandu have power cuts and suffer from shortages of cooking oil and fuel.

Because of severe petrol rationing, hotels ask guests to

make their own arrangements to go to the airport. Senior officials in Kathmandu have abandoned their cars for bicycles. Roadside snack bars serve meals only once a day for lack of fuel.

The Nepalese press is filled with anti-Indian stories and also grumbles about deforestation because of the increased demand for fuel.

With heightened anti-Indian feelings in Nepal, the 150,000 Indians there live in trepidation. Several Indian shopkeepers have closed their shutters and there are frequent complaints of harassment of Indian teachers there.

While at present the Nepalese anger is directed at India,

the Indian Government is perhaps hoping that if the impasse continues public resentment will turn against the monarchy. Last month an anti-Indian demonstration turned spontaneously anti-monarchy. King Birendra, by maintaining an enigmatic silence has hardly helped inspire confidence.

Many Nepalese speculate that the hostility between the two countries has escalated because of the bad relations between their King and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

India has been anxious to restore democracy in Nepal since King Birendra's father, King Mahendra, in 1960 arrested the Prime Minister

and his Cabinet and banned political parties.

On Saturday the Indian press reported on front pages the arrest in Kathmandu of Mr Rishikesh Shah, a former Foreign Minister and a human rights activist who was held for subversion and issuing anti-national statements during a visit to India.

Mr Shah was released on bail but some half a dozen journalists are still in prison because they questioned the official standpoint on the controversy with India.

Delhi's attitude has been criticized by sections of the Indian press and some MPs from Mr Gandhi's party have questioned the need for prolonging the confrontation.

## Communists withdraw backing for Papandreou

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Socialist Prime Minister of Greece, who is counting on Communist support to cling to power after the June 18 elections, even if his conservative opponents beat him, has had the rug pulled from under his feet.

A declaration by the Alliance, a grouping of communist, Euro-communist and dissident socialists, made it clear yesterday that there would be no co-operation with the Socialists under their present leadership after the elections. The Alliance is likely to hold the balance of power in the case of a hung Parliament.

A morbid confluence of financial scandals, ill-health and an unconventional life-style by Mr Papandreou in recent months, has heavily eroded the popularity of Pasok, his Socialist Party, which has been in power for the past eight years.

There is now a growing demand for a thorough house-cleaning — the Greeks call it "catharsis" — after the scandal and official corruption that poses a threat to the very fabric of Greek society.

More than 150 Greek authors, scholars and artists, regarded as the cream of contemporary

Greek intellect and culture, in a declaration deploring the degradation of social and moral values, condemned those responsible for the scandals because of the "humiliating immersion of the Greek people" to the "heavy atmosphere of scandal and rot".

Mr Papandreou, in an attempt to shed the blame for these developments, last week had Pasok's Central Committee evict Mr Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas from the party, his once-powerful second-in-command, who faces accusations of accepting a \$2 million (£1.3 million) bribe in the Bank of Crete scandal. Yet the "sacrifice of Agamemnon", as it has come to be known, was inadequate to placate the critics.

Both the conservative New Democracy, the main opposition party that opinion polls tip as the winner of the next elections, and the Communist-led Alliance, are now committed to "catharsis". Mr Constantinos Mitsotakis, the conservative leader, vowed in his campaign speeches that "the thieves will be jailed however high they may stand".

However, the new voting system introduced by the Socialist majority last month, makes it exceedingly difficult for any party to muster an absolute majority of 151 in the 300-seat new

Parliament, with less than 46 per cent of the total vote.

Mr Mitsotakis stated that if his party failed to win a working majority, he would call for new elections. A coalition between New Democracy and the Alliance seems to be ruled out by diametrically opposed platforms.

Mr Papandreou hoped that, in case of a tie, even if Pasok lost second, it could still form a coalition government with the Alliance or with its vote of tolerance. He seemed confident that the Communists would not lose another chance to participate in government. The last time was 45 years ago in a government headed by Mr Papandreou's father. It fell with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1944.

The Prime Minister may even have drawn encouragement from a weekend statement by Mr Harilaos Florakis, the secretary-general of the Communist Party, that his party's attitude would be defined after the June 18 election. This contrasted with pledges by other Alliance leaders that a coalition with Mr Papandreou, whom they held responsible for the scandals, was out of the question.

The outcry that greeted Mr Florakis's statement prompted a meeting of the political committee of the Alliance and a "unanimous"

pledge that the group would support a government committed to "catharsis" through impeccable judicial procedures. It said: "It is clear that in such government there is no room for those whose names became implicated in the scandals, whether because of penal reasons or of paramount political responsibility."

If the Alliance adheres to this pledge, the choice for the Socialists, in the case of a hung Parliament, would be either to oust Mr Papandreou and his entourage in order to form a coalition with the Communists, or face new elections and a probable debacle.

Mr Papandreou, after a deal with his American-born wife of 38 years, Mr Papandreou, is racing against time to legitimize by wedlock his celebrated liaison with Mrs Dimitra Liani, the former airline stewardess, before the June 18 elections.

His new petition for divorce, invoking a four-year separation with the estranged mother of his four children, was heard before the Athens Court of First Instance yesterday. If uncontested, the decree should be published on June 7, giving the septagenarian leader 11 days to polling day for a wedding that would silence criticism that he has been living in sin.

### The Recruit scandal

## Tokyo contains political fall-out

From Brian Robins, Tokyo

With the interim report of the prosecutor's investigation into the Recruit Cosmos scandal to be presented to the Diet tomorrow, it is clear that the political fall-out has been contained.

At this stage it is unlikely that more politicians will be charged over their involvement in the scandal, following the laying of formal charges earlier this week against Mr Takao Fujinami, the former Chief Cabinet Secretary, and Mr Katsuya Ikeda, an opposition party member. No additional politicians have been summoned for questioning by the public prosecutors.

In total, 17 politicians have been linked to the scandal, allegedly receiving stock in Cosmos before its public listing and selling subsequently, earning a vast profit in the process. Apart from the formal charges laid against Mr Fujinami and Mr Ikeda, all others formally charged are either former bureaucrats or officials with the Recruit group of companies.

The difficulty for the prosecutors was proving that the politicians in question actually received funds directly from Recruit or Recruit Cosmos, and that these beneficiaries actually sought to change government policies in a manner beneficial to the private companies involved.

In Japan, senior politicians usually do not directly receive funds from supporters, but rather the funds are channelled through their private secretaries. Although this is only a notional difference, it has proved sufficient to block the prosecutors from charging many other politicians who have been implicated.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Prime Minister, for example, allegedly received 29,000 shares in Cosmos, more than any politician, but the shares were actually registered in the name of an aide.

The Recruit scandal has been the most serious to confront the Japanese Gov-



Mr Nakasone: Facing MP's questions tomorrow.

more agricultural imports, the Government's bulwark of rural support has been upset.

Even though the public prosecutor's investigation is all but at a halt, Mr Nakasone remains the primary focus of attention. After resisting attempts to force him to give evidence to the Diet, last week he capitulated and agreed to subject himself to questioning.

The next focus of attention will be tomorrow's Diet session, when opposition parties are expected to question Mr Nakasone. The secretary-general of the Social Party, Mr Tsuruo Yamaguchi said: "Fujinami's indictment showed anew that the Recruit scandal is a structural scandal reaching to the very core of the former Nakasone Government."

## France drawn into peace role at Dakar summit

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

President Mitterrand arrives in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, today for the opening of the francophone summit. Only too aware that the danger of war between Senegal and her northern neighbour, Mauritania, has never seemed so real.

Last month's blood, clashes left hundreds dead and thousands homeless in both countries. An attempt by President Mousa Traore of Mali, the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, to calm the official war of words which grew out of the clashes, failed last week.

Hopes of an early peaceful settlement were finally dashed yesterday as Mauritania announced the urgent recall of Mr Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Zamel, its Ambassador in Dakar.

His departure implicates France directly in this steadily deteriorating situation. It was he who was supposed to represent his country at the francophone summit. Observers in Dakar feel that Senegal is unlikely to take retaliatory action until after the summit

ends on Friday, but after that, anything is possible.

France must now have serious reservations about its previous insistence that the summit — a yearly gathering of French-speaking nations hosted by France — must go ahead as a mark of support for President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The empty Mauritania chair over the next four days accuses France of taking sides.

President Mitterrand is bound to be drawn even further into trying to prevent the tension between these two former French colonies reaching a point of no return.

French officials are relieved that the summit is being held in the well-protected Club Méditerranée holiday village overlooking the sea, well away from the centre of Dakar.

The opening ceremony, however, is scheduled for the International Trade Centre near the airport, where, until three weeks ago, thousands of Mauritians, fleeing Senegalese mob violence, were kept in unsanitary conditions und-

er police protection, before being repatriated.

The traditions of tolerance, fair play and humour, which have made Senegal an example to other African countries, seem to have disappeared overnight as the free official press in Dakar has mounted a campaign of abuse against the Moorish population in Mauritania, bringing out all the latent racist divisions between Arab north Africa and sub-Saharan black Africa.

There is a danger that other African countries will begin to take sides. The Gabonese Ambassador in the Mauritania capital, Nouakchott, has left the country after accusing Mauritania — which straddles the Arab-black African divide — of carrying out a deliberately racist policy against its black African population.

An old hobby-horse of President Mobutu of Zaire, to create a League of Black African States like the Arab League, is suddenly being given a new airing in Dakar, where previously there was scant interest.

## Café René opening up for 'Allo 'Allo à la française

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

On a sweltering day beside the Seine in the heart of Paris, the proprietor of the Café René is practising his distinctive brand of French gobbledegook on a table full of bemused tourists.

His formidable but screeching wife, Edith, hovers near by, more or less bursting out of a tight ensemble for the benefit of a gaggle of eager photographers who wish her to pose coquettishly on hubby's knee, flourish a bottle of red wine and generally ham it up à la française.

In other words, the BBC's hit series, 'Allo 'Allo, was in town, the show that gives you comic Froggies, daff Gesto men and exceedingly silly Brits in equal measure against a background of the Second World War and a relentless barrage of oh la la.

From July 1, it will be going out daily for 40 consecutive days on France's enterprising Canal Plus commercial channel, duly dubbed and marginally adjusted to accommodate the Gallic sense of humour.

For the purposes of the

exercise, the voice of the feckless Monsieur René Artois, alias Gordon Kaye, will be dubbed by a distinguished French actor.

Wisely, he does not attempt to produce the equivalent of the manic proprietor's strangled yowl.

Originally, Kaye had reservations about this dubbing on of "real" French voices, fearing that the extraordinary comic appeal of 'Allo 'Allo — which now reaches some 28 countries outside Britain — might undermine the show's bedrock of linguistic mix-ups, doubles entendres and bluish jokes.

As it happens, the "voice of René", a talented French actor called Pierre Tournade, fits the role admirably.

The two not only share a sense of humour that survives the Channel crossing (hard enough) they even sport similarly implausible, though perfectly genuine, moustaches.

According to M Tournade, René is un type vraiment français — a real French

character. "Perhaps he should have a few more stains on his apron, but I feel the audience will recognize him as somebody they know."

As for the risk of upsetting viewers by depicting the French Resistance as a bunch of bumbles: "Well, we'll probably offend some people, those who consider the Resistance above such things."

"But if you only do what's safe, who would watch it? Don't forget, everyone in 'Allo 'Allo comes out looking pretty stupid."

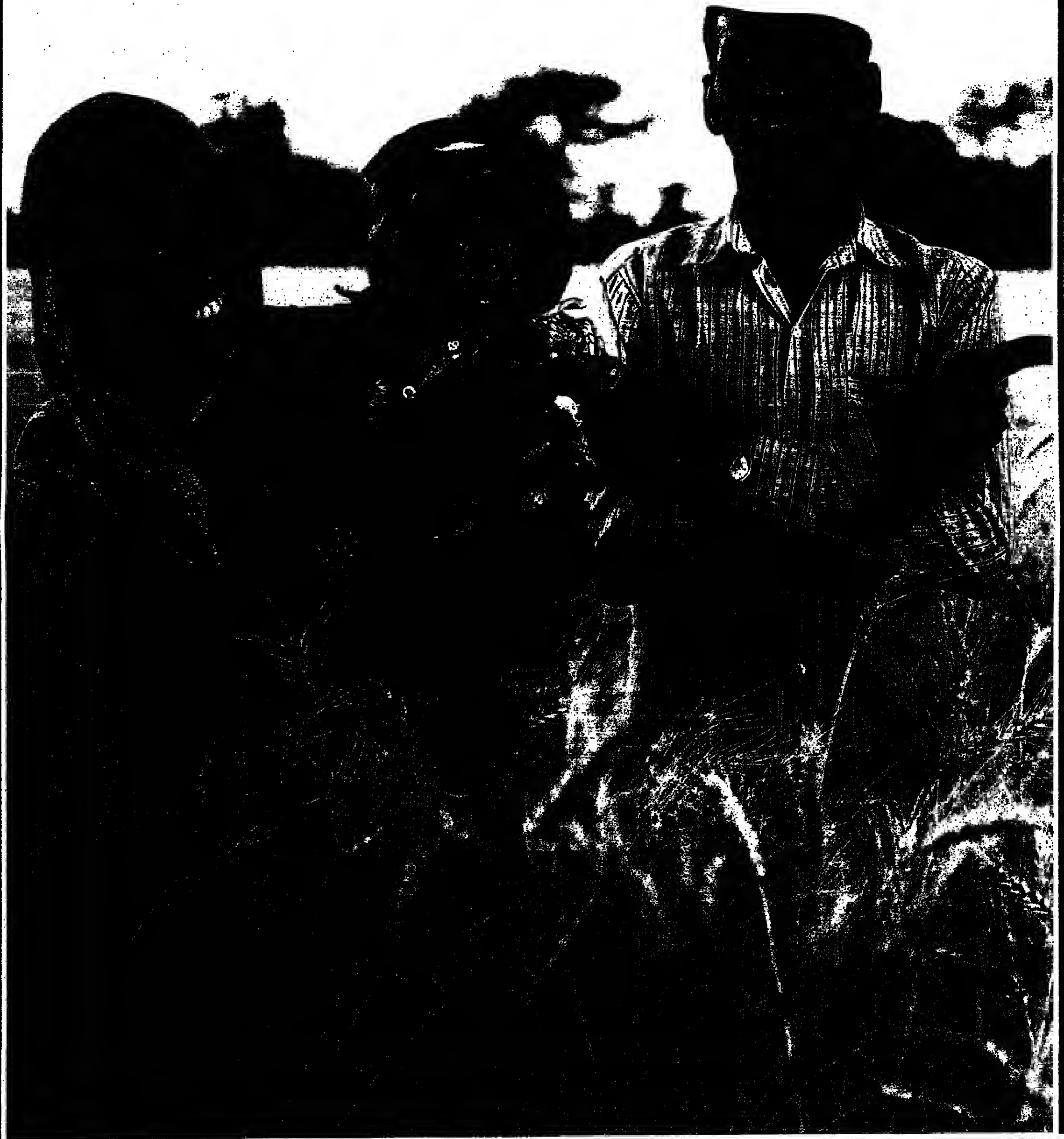
Certainly most of the French journalists tucking into an excellent lunch at the Brasserie du Pont Louis-Philippe (definitely no connection) thought the series deserved to succeed.

"We don't laugh at ourselves enough," said one young woman as a parade of accordion-playing, frog-leg eating, onion-festooned characters made their way across the nearby TV screen.

Even the jokes about the perils of French lavatories raised a decent giggle.



MAKE HIS CROPS MORE RESISTANT TO DISEASE  
AND HIS CROPS WILL DO THE SAME FOR HIS FAMILY.



World Problems

Every year, a third of the world's crop production is lost due to pests, weeds and disease. However, ICI is feeding, protecting and even breeding resistance



World Solutions

into crops to give them a better chance of survival. Which should help to give millions of people in the developing world a better chance of survival too.



World Class

من العالم



Last year, business was brisker than ever before at the Halifax Building Society. A record £10.6 billion was lent to home buyers, an increase of 44% on 1987.

In came an extra £5 billion from savers, a rise of 59% on the previous year. Our gross profits were up

of our branches aimed at providing customers with a more friendly, open-plan environment. While, under the banner of Halifax Property Services, we extended our network of estate agents to a total of 650 offices.

We made our Personal Loans service available to both investors and borrowers and more recently to non-members.

In July we launched the Halifax Visa card which has proved extremely popular with members. And by October we had installed our thousandth Cardcash machine. Later this year, we shall be able to offer an additional 2500 cash points by connecting to the LINK system.

32% to £461 million and our assets now exceed £40 billion. Behind these statistics lies a success story achieved by responding to, and anticipating, real customer needs.

We have always sought to bring more people into home ownership.

So, as well as introducing our Apex mortgage scheme for larger borrowers, we supported over 100,000 first-time buyers to the tune of £3.2 billion.

We also recognised the importance of a flourishing rental market by putting some £200 million behind the nation's housing associations.

On the high street, we began a major face-lift

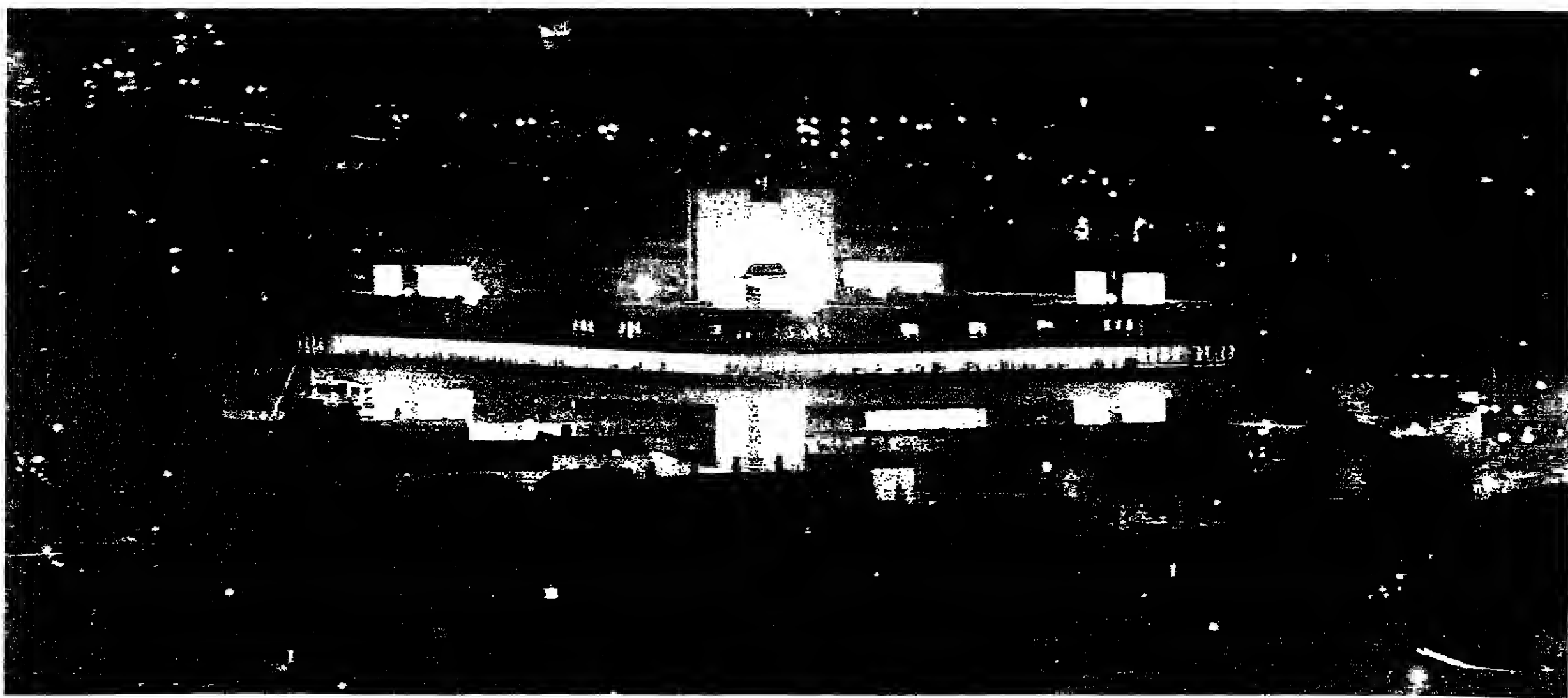


*Richard Hoadley*  
CHAIRMAN

None of these achievements would be possible without a continuing investment in the latest technology. Last December we moved into our major new computer and money transmission centre on schedule. Designed to meet our needs beyond the year 2000, it paves the way for services like our

cheque product to be launched this Autumn.

In the future, provision of a wide range of services, coupled with the utmost security of investment, will remain, as always, the aim of the No.1 Building Society.



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May 23 1989

## PARLIAMENT

## BMA publishing blatant untruths, Clarke tells MPs

Some sections of the medical profession were resorting to "low-level propaganda" in the advertising campaign against the Government's proposals for reform of the National Health Service, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said during question time.

He criticized the British Medical Association for publishing "blatant untruths" only three days after setting a meeting with him to discuss the proposals.

One Conservative MP described the advertisements in national newspapers as "over-priced, over-weight and certainly over the top".

Questions about the health service and the White Paper, *Working for Patients*, were opened by Mr Peter Hain (Wentworth, Lab), who asked why the Government had chosen to publish the proposals in a way which the Government revealed no knowledge, were too busy to take part in the policy decisions of the health service.

Mr Clarke said that people were to be given more local responsibility for managing and delivering services.

He had been encouraged that those recruited to the policy board were high-powered and successful people who had had responsibility for large organizations. There would be a nursing management job to do, and for that reason the director of nursing would be on the management executive.

Mr Ronald Fearn, Democrat spokesman on health, asked why no one had been elected to the policy board and why Mr Clarke had not announced it in the Commons chamber.

Mr Clarke said that the policy board was not a representative committee (Opposition laughter).

It was an extremely bad tradition that every committee had to have one doctor, one nurse, one administrator and one treasurer with long, multi-disciplinary discussions before decisions could be reached.

This was a policy board. Management responsibility lay with the management board on which it was essential to have the director of nursing.

Mr Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton South East, Lab), who had been elected to what Mr Clarke's response had been to an open letter in the *Wolverhampton Express* and *Star* signed by more than half of Wolverhampton's consultants saying that they could no longer guarantee a comprehensive

## HEALTH

health service because of lack of funding and ward closures.

Mr Clarke said that anyone in public life knew it was easier to get people to sign a round-robin or a petition than to give serious consideration to a problem. He did not believe that most consultants believed such announcements. Nothing in the White Paper justified such alarmist allegations.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harrow, C) said that the time had come for the hyperbole and scare-mongering of the BMA to stop. It was confusing patients and adding nothing to the debate. Would Mr Clarke be prepared to meet the BMA without conditions?

Mr Clarke said that the precondition was that the two sides agreed on the aim of improving the health service.

● Advertisement campaign has been over-priced, over-weight and certainly over the top ●

He looked forward to the BMA's putting forward positive ideas. It was a great pity that the BMA, having said that it wanted to talk, had started to publish lists of blatant untruths in the newspapers.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, asked why Mr Clarke had appointed to the policy board three industrialists, including his private medical cover.

Sir Graham Day and Sir Robert Scholey had a record of closing large chunks of industry and privatizing what remained. Was that why Mr Clarke had chosen them to run the health service?

Mr Clarke could find places for four businessmen but not for a single nurse. Had not those who knew how to care for patients got at least as much to offer the health service as those who only knew how to read a balance sheet and close a factory?

Mr Clarke said that a giant organization required people able to give leadership and guidance. Labour's proposals would lead to a health service administered by local councillors and trade unionists.

Mr Robert Hughes (Harrow West, C) said that when Mr Clarke met the chairman of the BMA he should point out that there were so many inaccuracies in the BMA advertising campaign that it was hard to believe that those responsible for it had even read the White Paper.

Mr Clarke should give the chairman a copy and give a copy to his advertising agency so that it could reprint the advertisements, this time telling the truth.

Mr Clarke said that he was astonished that one day the BMA said that it wanted to have discussions with him but three days later its advertisements were produced.

The chairman had said that he entirely agreed with the Government's aim of improving the service and agreed with much that was in the White Paper.

The BMA had encouraged the Government to experiment and to introduce pilot schemes, but then followed that with untrue advertisements that alarmed elderly and chronically sick patients.

Mr Kenneth Hind (West Lancashire, C) asked how the BMA, the doctors' trade union, could describe the health service as undermined, undermanned and under threat when the Government had increased spending by £8 billion to £26 billion since 1979, including a big rise in doctors' pay.

The advertising campaign was misleading, it was over-priced, over-weight and certainly over the top.

Mr Clarke said that he did not criticize the BMA for advertising agencies when appropriate. But it was best not to leave the text entirely to the copy writer. It should be written by someone who had read and understood the proposals.

Everyone agreed that the National Health Service needed more money, which was why the Government had increased spending by 40 per cent in real terms since it came to power.

Mr Cook said that Mr Clarke should answer the BMA's question: When would he respond to the Griffiths report on community care?

Mr Clarke had sat on the report — which was supported by everyone in the medical profession — for a year, in stark contrast to the year he had pushed through the White Paper proposals, which were opposed by everyone in the medical profession.

When would Mr Clarke recognize that the elderly and the handicapped urgently needed community care?

Mr Clarke said that priority had been given to the needs of the elderly and the handicapped. The Government was doing its utmost to improve community care, unlike Labour when it was in office.

The Government would be reporting soon.

It was a complex problem and the Government had to determine how best, with the medical profession, to provide good quality community services.



## Treaty in the Cabinet room

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Democrats, told the Prime Minister at question time that the nation would welcome yesterday's announcement by the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey

Howe) that he had negotiated his treaty with her so that the decision on joining the European Monetary System would be taken by the Government as a whole. "Will she tell the House

whether the decision will be on the basis of majority voting or, as usual, subject to her veto?" Mrs Thatcher: Some of us recognize that he has no experience of Government (laughter).

## Contract 'is a good one'

## Thatcher's advice for doctors

## HEALTH

the Secretary of State for Health (Mr Kenneth Clarke) that he should scrap his White Paper.

What plans did the Prime Minister have for recovering the £11 million of unpaid bills left by people abusing the private sector of the health service?

Mrs Thatcher said that the White Paper would improve service by giving more choice to hospitals, more say in their own

affairs and would give doctors more chance to run their own budgets.

Resources for the National Health Service had increased from £8 billion to something like £25 billion a year under the present Government (Labour protests).

"I cannot recognize accurate accuracy, I am not in the least bit surprised" (laughter).

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) said that the mendacious, inaccurate campaign by the BMA indicated the deficiency of their

## Government in inflation mess, says Kinnock

## PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister came under attack over rising inflation during question time from Labour MPs, including her leader.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that the Government had made a complete mess of the policy. Mrs Margaret Thatcher countered by drawing references to higher inflation rates under Labour.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab) opened the questions, asking if she recalled saying three months ago that we were proceeding towards zero inflation. Would she like to take this opportunity to update the House on progress (Labour laughter)?

Mrs Thatcher: The steps the Chancellor has taken will deal with the problem (Opposition laughter and shouts of "When?"). Eight per cent was low for Labour. It is unacceptably high for us.

Mr Kinnock asked if she recalled saying last week that "we picked up our inflationary tendency by trying to shadow the Deutschmark". Exactly who made the decision to shadow the Deutschmark?

Mrs Thatcher: The policies are the policies of the whole Government (Labour laughter). All the policies. And she added, the Government had been infinitely more successful on inflation than the 26 per cent reached under Labour.

Mr Kinnock: So what the Prime Minister is saying is that the reason we have got 8 per cent inflation and picked up that tendency is because the Government under her leadership made a complete mess of it.

Mrs Thatcher: A complete mess was what the Labour Party did when they were in office.

Mr Caim Macdonald (Western Isles, Lab) May I invite her to state her complete confidence in the prediction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as recently as two months ago that inflation this year would peak at 8 per cent and not go higher?

Mrs Thatcher: I have nothing further to add to what the Chancellor said (Labour laughter). I can assure Mr Macdonald

that our efforts to tackle inflation will be infinitely more successful than were those of Labour, which was the party of inflation and when it got inflation up to 25 per cent, did not even have the resources to inflation-proof pensioners' pensions.

● Loud cheers and laughter greeted the disclosure at question time that a man in the North-east is prospering after accepting the Prime Minister's advice to take a job training course.

Mr Richard Holt (Lancashire, C) said that Mr Eric Fletcher, who was unemployed when she met him during her successful visit to Tossie in November 1987, was reported to be buying his council house.

"He has money in his bank and he is grateful for the day he met the Prime Minister" (loud Conservative cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I understand he took a very good training course, on my advice. He did very well on that course. He has got a job and due to his own vigorous efforts he has done very well in that job. He will be warmly congratulated.

So too will this Government which has the right policies in enable him to do that and which is bringing increasing prosperity to the North-east.

● The Prime Minister was totally opposed to television viewers being allowed to watch her performance at question time because it was the one photo opportunity she could not stage manage, Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wirral, Lab) said at question time.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Grocott talks his customary poppycock. ● The people of Afghanistan had managed to "see off" the Red Army without the need for nuclear weapons, Mr Christopher Molin (Sunderland South, Lab) said. Mrs Thatcher replied that they had had a good deal of help from other people.

## Britain to call for ivory ban

The United Kingdom will be calling for a complete ban on trade in ivory when the next meeting of the EC Council of Environment Ministers meets in Luxembourg on June 8.

Mrs Thatcher said during questions: "We believe that the sale of ivory should be stopped altogether."

She was responding to Mr Cranley Onslow (Woking, C), who had asked her to promote initiatives to protect elephants in Africa.

Sir Fergus Montgomery (Sale and Altrincham, C) said that she should cut through the red tape and start immediate action.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Earl of Cairness, Minister of State for the Environment, who had just returned from Kenya, had said that he would call for a total ban on trade in ivory at the council.

## Praise for Walker

Mrs Thatcher said at question time that she had full confidence in Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, adding that the policies bringing prosperity to Wales were Conservative Government policies. She hoped that the people were all grateful for that.

The question had been asked by Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) who said that the point of having separate ministries for Wales and Scotland was to enable different policies to be pursued when needed.

## Litter louts 'must be treated severely'

The hope that sufficiently severe sentences would be passed for litter offences was expressed by the Prime Minister during question time.

Sir Hugh Rossi (Hornsey and Wood Green, C), chairman of the Commons Select Committee on the Environment, had asked whether she had seen recent reports about the low level of prosecutions and the low fines for litter offences, and the findings of several reports of the committee showing a similar situation about very serious environmental offences.

Prosecuting authorities and magistrates should show greater concern about these matters. Mrs Thatcher replied that the situation clearly varied very much from one part of the country to the other. Magistrates, the Keep Britain Tidy

## Ministers 'do not care about inner city'

The Government had failed to help the inner cities because it did not care about them, did not understand them and was logically incapable of advancing policies that met their needs, Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, said.

He was opening a debate on an Opposition motion condemning the Government's "neglect of the inner-city areas".

Market forces, he said, would not solve the problems. There must be a partnership between public and private enterprise, national and local government.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister of Trade and Industry, said that the problems of the inner cities went back at least a generation. There was no overnight or simple solution to their decline. It required a series of measures, which was what the Government had introduced.

Moving the motion, Mr Hattersley said that two years

ago the Prime Minister promised action on the inner cities — a sudden and uncharacteristic

enthusiasm after eight years of wilful and deliberate neglect.

For a moment, some thought that she had by then accepted her duty to be Prime Minister of all the country, but those hopes were confounded.

"Life in the inner cities continues to deteriorate, deteriorate relative to the life of the rest of the UK and sometimes even in absolute terms. It deteriorates because the Government's approach to the inner cities reflects all the inadequacies of modern Conservatism. Tory inner-city policy is based on bone-headed Conservative dogma."

The so-called Action for Cities announced more than a year ago was a fraudulent prospectus. It had provided £100 million of new investment, 5 per cent of the total that the Government had claimed, and the rest had been old money dressed up to look like new.



Mr Hattersley: Problem not solved by market forces

Inner cities desperately needed more public spending on new houses, on repair of old houses, on new schools and more teachers, and on hospitals. There would not be industrial investment in areas of visible dereliction.

New companies that had moved into areas such as the London Docklands had not provided work for displaced local residents.

The epithet on the Government's record was provided by the employment statistics of the 44 inner-city authorities. Employment had improved in only 14 and was worse than when the Government came to power in four authorities.

Homelessness was deteriorating in the inner cities, and the council housing stock had fallen because of Government policy. Policy must be based on something other than prime

ministerial ignorance and prejudice. There must be a partnership between public and private enterprise, national and local government, between local people and the agencies created to assist them.

Partnership had to be built around policies intended explicitly and specifically to help the inner cities. The inner cities would not prosper while they were left in themselves and the market. That meant they would never prosper until another government had been elected.

Mr Newton said that no previous government had brought together such a comprehensive range of programmes as Action for Cities.

In March 1988, Action for Cities had been announced with a total expenditure of £3 billion. A year later, the estimate for spending had risen to £3.5 billion. That could not be called neglect.

## BA chief 'should resign'

The chairman of British Airways, Lord King, should resign because of the manner in which airline staff treated passengers on the Belfast route, Mr James Kilfeather (North Down, DUP), said during the debate on Monday.

British Airways should abandon advertisements saying that a back-up aircraft was always available when flights were full. One, showing a back-up flight carrying a single passenger, was in the realm of fantasy.

He protested at an hour-long delay to the 6.30pm flight from Heathrow to Belfast on Friday. Passengers, including elderly people, children and a pregnant woman, had been left to stand on a glass-sided ramp in full sunshine for 45 minutes without chairs, advice or information about a back-up aircraft. In the event, no back-up had been available.

He condemned the way in which BA staff treated passengers — like cattle. It was high time Lord King resigned because the buck must stop with him. People from Northern Ireland would not accept such abominable treatment.

## Museum law upsets Labour spokesman

The following report of a Commons debate on the National Maritime Museum Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Bill would allow the trustees of that museum to use the museum buildings to even better effect. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said.

The Bill transfers responsibility for the land and buildings of the museum from the Property Services Agency to the trustees.

He said that the Bill would give the trustees the same power to hold land and buildings already enjoyed by the trustees of other national museums and galleries. It had been welcomed by the trustees.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, welcomed the new powers for trustees of the museum, but said that the transfer only made sense if it was properly funded.

The Government gave the museum £3.5 million for repairs and maintenance this year, declining to £2.7 million next year. The museum needed £19 million over the next five years. That was a shortfall of at least £2 million a year.

The situation of repairs and maintenance had been agreed. Repairs at the V & A would cost £125 million over the next 10 years. The trustees would inherit a backlog of £50 million repairs.

The Government grant was £7.6 million a year.

The Tate needed £27 million repairs and maintenance. Roofs were leaking, galleries lacked sun-blinds so some pictures were being destroyed, some electric wiring was 50 years old, and air conditioning was inadequate so humidity and temperature were affecting the exhibits.

The Government was now seeking to hand back responsibility for that legacy of neglect and underfunding to the trustees and wanted to tell them to get on with it.

The Government had no museums strategy. What was needed was new thinking and new money.

The Bill was read a third time.

● NUCLEAR FUELS: The Atomic Energy Bill, to raise the financial limit imposed on British Nuclear Fuels from £1.5 billion to £2 billion, was read a third time.

## Written answers

The following written replies appeared in later editions yesterday.

Aid loan support for the Commonwealth Development Corporation is to be increased by £21 million to £70 million in the present financial year. Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said.

He added that £20 million of it would be additional to the existing agreed aid provision.

● AGENCY STAFF: About a third of the Civil Service, or nearly 200,000 civil servants, work in areas announced as candidates for agency status. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Civil Service, said. About 6,000 staff are working in five agencies already established.

● LANDFILL RISKS: The Department of the Environment plans this year to start a two-year study on health risks associated with landfill. Mr Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said.

● PRIVATIZATION: Since May 1979, privatization has raised £24.5 billion net, or £25.7 billion at 1987-88 prices, Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary, Treasury, said.

● POLICE: The number of police officers per 1,000 people has risen from 1.73 to 1.99 in 246 in 1988, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary, Home Office, said.

## Committee stage: Water Bill

## £5.5bn debts written off

The following report of the Commons debate on the committee stage of the Water Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

Debts of £5.5 billion owed by present water companies are to be written off by the Government before the industry is privatized, the Earl of Cairness, Minister of State for the Environment, announced during the committee stage.

The announcement was made when the House was considering amendments on borrowing powers on the seventh day of the Bill's committee stage.

He said that the Government intended that the new companies should not be encumbered by huge debts.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C), former chairman of the National Water Council, had

## HOUSE OF LORDS

moved an amendment, later withdrawn, to require the Secretary of State for the Environment to pay the new companies a share of the proceeds of the privatization sale. He said that the companies should not be launched on a disastrous start and the Government should provide a dowry to meet the investment programme that must be undertaken by the industry.

The Earl of Cairness said that amendments would be brought forward later to make sure that the public would share in the proceeds of any surplus land belonging to the present water authorities that was sold off after privatization. This

would be done by handing the money to the new private companies on the understanding that it was used to keep down expected rises in water charges.

"There will be no asset stripping."

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, Chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that he was opposed to handing money to the new water companies. It should go to local authorities that had initiated and developed the nation's water supplies.

It would be institutionalized theft to give the money to the companies.

Earlier, an Opposition amendment to give consumers the choice in deciding how to pay their water charges was rejected by 133 votes to 73 — Government majority, 60.

## Summertime may be changed

The following report appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government will produce a consultation document next month on whether and how present United Kingdom summertime arrangements might change. Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said. Speaking during a debate on an

order continuing existing arrangements, he said that the order provided for summertime next year to run from March 25 to October 28, in 1991 from March 31 to October 27 and in 1992 from March 29 to October 25.

The options on which consultations were taking place for

later years were: the status quo; Greenwich Mean Time plus one hour in winter and plus two hours in summer; and harmonizing with other EC states.

About 600 organizations had been consulted and the results of that were being collated and interpreted for the consultation document.

## Transplant Bill proceeds

The Human Organ Transplants Bill, which establishes an authority in review live donations from donors not closely genetically related to the recipients, was read a second time in the Commons on Monday.

The Bill had been recommended for a second reading by the second reading committee which had considered it. A money order, authorizing £20,000 to fund the annual costs of the authority, was agreed.

## Sex studies 'difficult'

The real difficulty in research into sexual abuse of children was not in finding extra money, but in designing the research and getting in uncontrollable results from it, Mrs Thatcher said.

Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North, Lab) said that for a small amount of money, a great deal of good could be done.

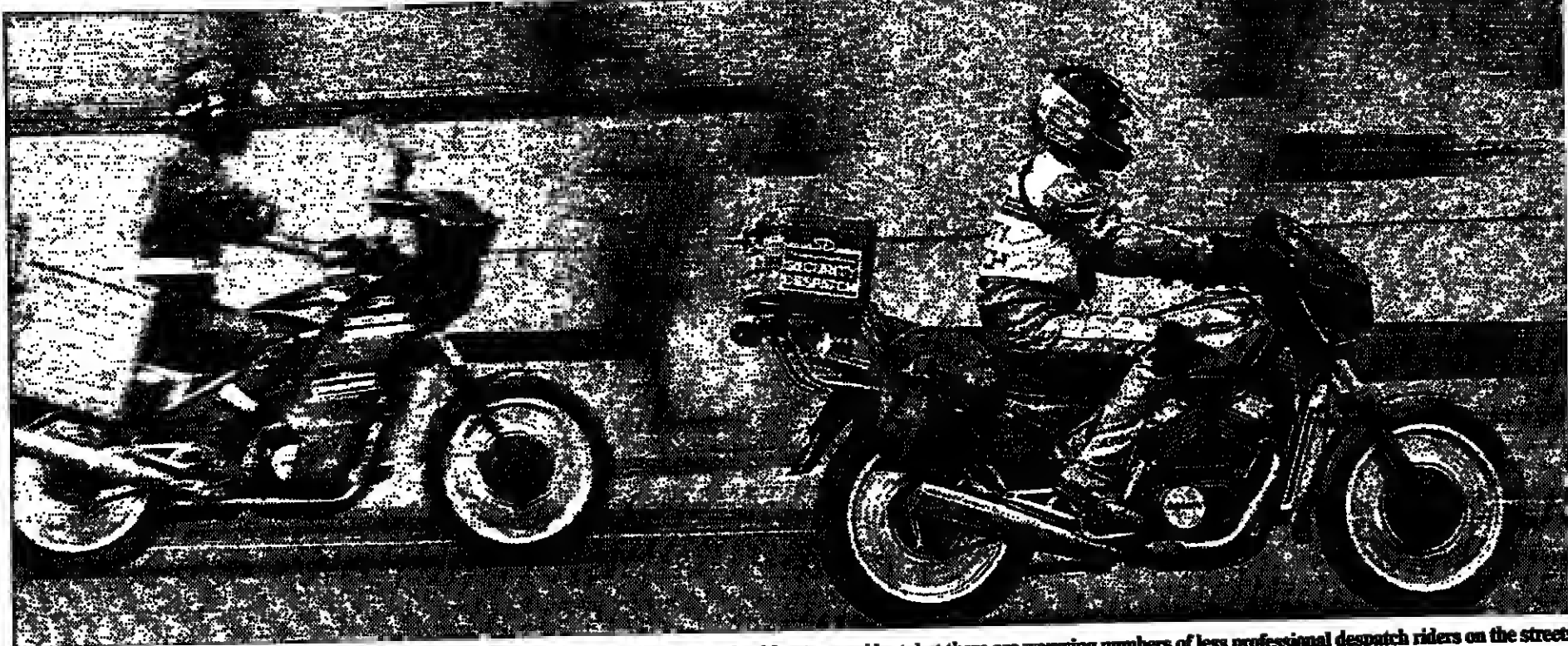
## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment, Dock Work Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Debate on transport, particularly in London.



## SPECTRUM



Easy rider: Rhys Boyd (right) has covered more than 100,000 miles for Security Despatch without an accident, but there are worrying numbers of less professional despatch riders on the streets

# Messengers of danger

If the judge who last week demanded action to limit the danger of couriers roaring through the traffic on high-powered motor bikes was expecting howls of protest he must be a surprised man. The only reaction was an acquiescent silence.

Indeed, Justice Leonard Gerber's appeal to the Ministry of Transport — after he had heard a case in which a despatch rider was convicted of causing death by reckless driving — echoed the opinions of many people within the industry.

Drivers and pedestrians are fed up with wild young men wearing bandanas who ignore the rules of the road. And the more respectable courier firms are sick of the "cowboy" image and have tried — and failed — to discipline their own industry.

Now the 65 courier firms which make up the Despatch Association, together with the Ministry of Transport, are keen to revise their code of practice. The association has also worked with the Westminster and the City of London councils on their own code, but so far no firm has been expelled for breaking the rules. The problem is that the codes are voluntary, and the 80 courier firms which subscribe in London are the ones least likely to offend.

There is no specific legislation to prevent learners working as despatch riders, to limit the hours worked, or to make companies ensure that their riders are adequately insured. And because police statistics do not register the occupations of people involved in accidents, there is no record of those involving couriers.

The Despatch Association's code urges members to ensure that bikes are safe and roadworthy, clean and in good condition; that riders should be competent, experienced and knowledgeable; and that they are adequately insured and of good

Is new legislation needed to put a brake on the motor cycle 'cowboys' of the courier industry? Colin Dunne investigates

character, appearance, behaviour and attitude. It "discourages" the use of learners or inexperienced riders.

The code produced by the two councils demands that riders must have a full licence, must not work more than 50 hours a week or 10 hours a day, that they should be clearly identified, and that the companies should ensure that their riders' documentation is in order.

Like fax and copy shops, the courier industry was apparently born overnight. In London alone, there are 150 well-established firms. Taking into account the smaller firms, some of which operate from lock-up garages, the figure runs into several hundreds.

Manchester has three major companies with more than 20 bikes each. Two or three smaller firms form a second division, and there are then many more operators with three or four bikes. In the Midlands there are about 15 well-known firms and at least 40 smaller ones. One

estimate reckons there must be 60,000 despatch riders in the country, although the figure might well be a lot lower than that.

Riders vary from highly-skilled professionals to youngsters on mopeds which still carry L-plates. In Liverpool, where riders can earn £300 a week, there are queues for the jobs. But in the London area — where there is double the potential for earnings — firms offer inducements such as free holidays in Spain to lure experienced riders from other firms. The riders are almost always self-employed and are paid between 50 and 60 per cent of the charge to the client. Some critics believe that this method of payment puts the riders under pressure to work at high speed.

Most of the problems in the industry have arisen because it has expanded at such astonishing speed. David Bennett, director of Eagle Couriers in Edinburgh and Glasgow, says: "It is all happening at a fantastic rate. The demand for good

riders has outstripped the supply, so some firms take 'cowboys'. Many of them do not pay tax or National Insurance and the Inland Revenue must be losing a fortune." He would welcome legislation to ensure that riders are registered as self-employed.

Pony Express, which is owned by Securicor, has 16 branches and more than 600 riders. It backed the code of practice, and bought Honda 500 bikes because it believed that was safer than having riders with their own machines. Riders are equipped with green and white livery to make them easily identifiable.

Richard Benson, the managing director, says the problem with the code is that it has no teeth. He says: "The element of pressure is always there, partly because of the nature of the work, which is usually urgent, and partly because riders are paid by the job."

Benson believes that payment by result is the biggest single danger

and would welcome legislation to put the industry in order.

Derek Ransome, the City of London's road safety officer, has not had a complaint about firms subscribing to his code. He believes that despatch riders should be subject to legislation similar to that controlling taxis and lorries.

The police share the general concern. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "There are two types of despatch riders — the professionals with well-maintained machines, and the less responsible riders. Some riders have a high disregard for traffic signs, often due to inexperience as well as deliberate disobedience. They tend to give all riders a bad name."

Some firms still hope they can regulate their own industry. Julian Noel, aged 39, a former engineer working in the North Sea oil industry, now has his own courier company. He does not want to see government interference.

"There are cowboys, but most of the riders are total professionals, men with university degrees, men with children and mortgages." He would like to see courier bikes allowed to use bus lanes — as are taxis and bicycles — and provided with proper parking facilities for making deliveries.

Adam Dally, aged 28, who started a courier business with his brother, John, six years ago and won an enterprise award, has 15 branches throughout the country. Recently he opened another in New York. Chicago and Los Angeles are next on his list and a year from now he will open a branch in Sydney. He does not subscribe to the codes but says that legislation is inevitable.

"It's becoming so big. We have a turnover of £10 million and we pay £3 million to our drivers in cash. Not surprisingly, the Inland Revenue is taking an interest."

## Rooting for urban forest

Why yesterday's announcement of a new woodland area means a revolution in the green belts

The forest that is planned for an area east of London in Essex is only the first of a number of woodlands that could be circling our major cities within a generation.

The Countryside Commission and the Forestry Commission hope that in July they will be able to announce another two — one between Newcastle upon Tyne and Sunderland and the other between Cannock and Lichfield, to the north of Birmingham.

"Urban forests" are a new idea in Britain, but they promise to be the most important development in the philosophy of the green belts — protected buffers between town and country.

Like many an idea whose time has come, urban forestry — which has the blessing of Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment — promises to kill a whole flock of nasty birds with one stone. As well as revitalizing thinking about green belts, it would open new prospects for open-air recreation. It would help the Forestry Commission to break away from the image of a despoiler of acres of irreplaceable wilderness. It would strike a blow at the food mountains of the European Community, and also at the problem of what is to become of the farmers whose livelihoods depend on them.

"Green belts are probably the greatest under-used recreational and landscape resource we have," says Mike Kirby, director of operations for the Countryside Commission. "But they have been whittled away in places, in spite of all their legal protection. You don't often hear of woodland being taken to build houses on. Now Brussels and Westminster are eager to offer farmers inducements to diversify out of food production and into forestry."

The concept is for each major city to declare that a substantial area of land on its fringe will be developed as its own forest. Each would be about 5,000 hectares in extent (about five times the size of Richmond Park, London's largest stretch of green). Owners would not be compelled to plant trees, but there would be grants to encourage them to do so. The aim would be for between half and two-thirds of the land in each forest to be planted with trees.

Local authorities and pri-

vate entrepreneurs in partnership would promote recreational uses of all kinds, and there would be a planned variation between quiet and busy areas, ranging from nature reserves to sports fields, bridle paths to camping sites.

Discussions with local interests are already in progress about the first three British forests, the exact boundaries of which will be announced in July. Alistair Scott, the Forestry Commission's director of environment, says: "This is not at all a pipe dream. It is only a large-scale application of the ideas Ebenezer Howard was putting into practice at Welwyn Garden City in the 1920s."

Local authorities have reacted favourably. "But there is a lot more to be done," says Brian Hatfield, a member of the countryside team in Gateshead, which includes part of the area of the proposed South Tyneside forest. "It is fairly well-established farmland, some of it statutory green belt. I think there will be some local suspicions at first, and it will be necessary to stress that everything will be done on a purely voluntary basis."

Farmers in the area do, indeed, appear to have their suspicions.

David Colley, of Mount Pleasant Farm, in the heart of the planned forest area, is sceptical of the whole concept. "It sounds quite unreal to me. The land in this area is totally under threat already, from factories and housing, green belt or no green belt. Nissan's new factory is right in the middle of the area you're talking about."

The east London forest, too, has met with suspicion from councillors who think that the scheme may be a disguised capitalist attack on their cherished green belt. The Cannock project, in effect a huge expansion of the existing Cannock Forest, is on land where competing pressures may not be as intense.

"We are conscious there's a big selling job to be done," Kirby says. "Getting private landowners on our side will be one of the keys to success. Community involvement all round will be vital. If people don't see it as their forest from the start, then the project will fail. But we think this is an idea which looks right for our time."

George Hill

### TOMORROW

Flexible thinking: mind-bending exercises could be the best way to keep your brain in shape and minimize the effects of dementia. The Health Page reports

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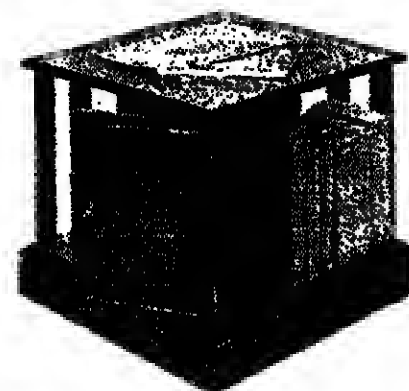
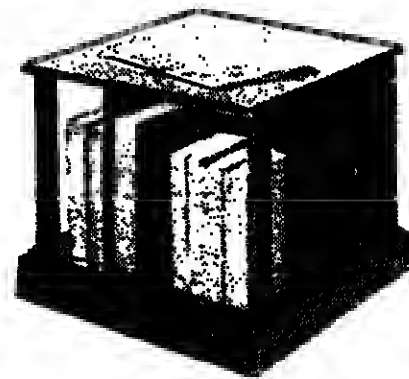
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## Greene among the pigeons

Much of the interest aroused by Professor Norman Sherry's lengthy first volume of biography of Graham Greene has been concerned with the revelation that Greene's flat in Antibes is "not big enough to swing a cat in".

At first, it was only the novelist who objected. Greene took the trouble to measure his flat before telling Sherry (naturally, itself a popular name for a cat) that it contained ample space for the most energetic of cat-swingers.

If Sherry was now tamed, the cat-loving public most certainly was not. They had heard of Greene's reputation as a stickler for research — never mentioning a sprout without Brussels — and they feared that our Greatest Living Novelist had been driven to swing an Antibes cat in his flat before reporting back to Sherry. The awful question was first raised in the correspondence column of *Cats* magazine. Happily, subscribers to *Cats* have been informed in the present issue that all Antibes cats remain untouched by the hand of the novelist, and that Greene is innocent.

But cat lovers are a dogged breed, and even if the phrase "not big enough to swing a cat in" has now been cleared up to their satisfaction, I feel sure that they will wish to get their teeth into some other ancient saying and to gnaw it to death. Even as I write, cat lovers will be picking the royal palaces of Europe demanding that "a cat may look at a king", and calling for urgent EC legislation to ensure that this ancient right of cats is enforced through compulsory monthly meetings between kings and representatives of the cat community.

Undoubtedly, the most con-

troversial piece of received wisdom is that curiosity kills the cat, a vicious rumour that has been allowed to circulate freely for many years. Is it true or false? Under controlled conditions at the Cat Research Centre in Massachusetts, an experienced cat is presently being confronted with some of the most tantalizing enigmas known to mankind. These questions have kept fully grown men awake with curiosity for many a long night, but will they succeed in killing the cat? On the hour, every hour, a white-coated scientist with a full range of pens and pencils sticking out of his top pocket will be asked one of the following insoluble questions:

● WHY do people behind the counters in Health Food Stores all look as if they are about to die from malnutrition?

● WHY do intelligent and responsible human beings — doctors and captains of industry among them — find themselves unable to stop singing the tune from *Neighbours* up to three times in any single day?

● WHY are all poets "award-winning" and all travel writers "consistently underrated"?

● WHY, when you try to tune into Radio 3, do you always find yourself listening instead to a local station advertising huge discounts at a carpet warehouse?

● WHY do both Mr Benn and Mrs Thatcher smile most avidly only when faced with a statement to which they object?

● WHY does Radio 4 only broadcast plays in which there are ample opportunities for sound effects of horses' hooves, creaking doors and chirruping birds, and in which every character gets at least one chance to say

"What's up with 'im, then?"

● WHY do public relations officers call complete strangers by their Christian names, and do they signal intimacy when they get home by addressing them by their surnames?

● WHY are assistants in all video shops so pleased with themselves?

Experts predict that, faced with these, the most curious problems currently facing mankind, even the most hardened cat will keel over, and the old adage will be proven.

Meanwhile, larger cats are to be incorporated into future research projects.

Already, leading fashionmen from the world of salons are being flown to the Cat Research Centre in an attempt to persuade a politically weak-minded leopard to change its spots. ("Oh yes — pink stripes are you to a T! By all means try on a smaller size... now, this is a very popular line for the fuller figure...") Those who have long experience of entering boutiques predict that the leopard doesn't stand a chance.

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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

# A light in the dark city

To the heroin addicts of the Walled City of Kowloon Jackie Pullinger is a saviour. Libby Purves discovers why

A boardroom in Bedford Square is quite the wrong backdrop for Jackie Pullinger. It makes her look like any other youthfully forthright working woman, complete with nervous friendliness and a slightly dated taste in make-up. Nice, but insignificant.

See her in her own setting and the picture would change. In the old Walled City of Kowloon, one of the worst slums in the world, Pullinger is a heroine and a saviour. In collapsing rooms where heroin addicts lie skeletal on camp-beds, in stinking alleys full of child prostitutes, her neat blonde presence is so respected that Triad leaders step aside for her and pimps salute her. It is mildly disconcerting to find her packaged down to the status of the mere author of a lavishly photographed book on the last days of the Walled City.

She speaks in a strange accent — to which Chinese, American and Australian twangs overlay solid Home Counties English — and like many Evangelical Christians, she drops God and the Bible into her conversation with disconcerting casualness. I can well believe her account of the consternation she has caused in the past at committees and drug-addiction conferences. "They talk about patients or P45 numbers. I tend to say simple things like, 'This man is my neighbour'."

There is a certain wild incongruity in her entourage, too. She has brought from Hong Kong Leung Wai-Leun, Onjai and Ah-Tam, Chor Kim and Po Keung. They are all former heroin addicts out of Triad street gangs, needle-scarred and bred from birth to vice. She cured their addiction in explosive, well-attended sessions involving prayer and speaking in tongues, and their criminal behaviour by Bible study. The tour is only a short, strange interlude. Next week they will all go home together to the chaos of Kowloon. There is much to do: the gangsters, addicts and destitutes of the Walled City have to be prepared not only (as she would

put it) for the Kingdom of Heaven, but in the shorter term for the major upheavals of 1997, when the whole lot is handed back to Chinese rule. The Walled City is a quirk of history. Founded as a Chinese garrison in 1843 when the British took over Hong Kong, it developed into a prosperous little town. In 1899 Chinese jurisdiction ended and the city became "part and parcel of Her Majesty's Colony of Hong Kong". It sank into disrepair and became so insanitary that in the 1930s the British began to knock it down. But after the Second World War, Chinese squatters and refugees reclaimed it and China backed them up, and effectively this 6.5 acre patch in the centre of prosperous Hong Kong became a no-go area. Left to its own devices, unvisited even by police until the Sixties, it was a city of crime, drugs and prostitution. They called it Hak Nam: the city of darkness.

It is in the 1997 agreement, Pullinger says, "which has made it possible for the Hong Kong authorities to demolish the place at last. Before that its political status was so dubious that nobody wanted to rock the boat. The people are being decently resettled and compensated according to what they own or what rent they pay. Even if you sleep in the street you pay rent."

What this well-bred, slightly shy, young English girl came to be doing in Kowloon City in the first place is another oddity. She was studying the oboe at the Royal Academy of Music in the Sixties, and fell in with the college Christian Union. She then turned to more radical young Christians and had a deep conversion, rejected by mission societies as too young at 21, she set off round the world praying for a job to do. In 1966 she came to Hong Kong and walked naïvely alone into the Walled City. The Cultural Revolution in China had sent a new flood of refugees in, the sight she saw was appalling and irresistible. "It upset me to see 12-year-old



The power of love: Pullinger (right) with four male former heroin addicts and one of her assistants

and 61-year-old prostitutes, and to notice the needle marks on their hands from the heroin injections which made the job bearable. I hated what was happening here, but I wanted to be nowhere else. It was almost as if I could already see another city in its place and that city was ablaze with light. It was my dream. There was no more crying, no more death or pain."

She had, she admits, not much idea of how to bring this about, but remembered a book about an American pastor who approached a mobster and said "Jesus loves you", and it worked. "When I tried it on my first gangster, I am afraid he just seemed bored. He told me to run along and find someone else."

She began handing out tracts in a street where a hundred men or more lay sprawled "chasing the dragon" — inhaling heroin through a tube held over heated tinfoil. Alas, "they just rolled up my papers and used them to inhale through". Frustrated, she got a teaching job outside the Walled City, and spent her money and spare time running a youth club inside, to befriend young Triads. "It was for the drugs, for those unwelcome elsewhere." The club was packed nightly, but the members still thought she was "cracked about Jesus" and went

home to continue killing and living off prostitutes. She persevered; the evangelism began to work and strange things to happen. Strangest of all was her discovery that she could "cure" addicts without the pains of withdrawal.

Pullinger knows well that this is the hardest part of her ministry to explain, but it is well-documented by sceptical experts. "These are people who've suffered withdrawal before, in prison. We say to them, if you pray with us, you'll be free and without pain. We look after them. We give them cups of tea and noodles and massages and baths and love. Doctors sometimes say, 'Ah yes, you are causing them to release endorphins'. But I suppose it is 50/50 the power of God and the power of the love we give them."

Pullinger operated alone for some years; now with a growing band of helpers she organizes homes and occupations for the prostitutes and gangsters she has reformed, has a good relationship with the Hong Kong government, and has expanded her network into other parts of Asia and the world (including "Australia, Germany and Britain"). The *modus operandi* on the streets is deliberately contrary. "I don't understand why most people try to organize the bricks and mortar and staff first, before the

relationships. We begin with the love." And money? "We pray for it. We don't fund raise." Coming home, she is gently sceptical of our current obsession with huge institutional charities, telethons and the like. She does not like the Western reflex which enables us to switch off curiosity and compassion while walking past a blank-eyed figure lying wrapped in cardboard in the underpass.

"I pray for people that they may not be able to sleep at night because of the man to the cardboard box. The awfulness comes when you think you don't need to consider him, because someone else is, or because society should be."

Some would say Pullinger has sacrificed everything, youth and marriage and normality, to her dark, terrible city and her vision of the other one "ablaze with light". "That's dumb. I have more fun than most people. People are always telling me to take it easy or I'll burn out, but a couple of years later it always turns out that they've burned out themselves, and I haven't. The Bible doesn't say anything about looking after yourself, does it?"

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Crack in the Wall, by Jackie Pullinger, is published by Hodder & Stoughton (£10.95).

## When liability comes home

Should the possibility that your guests might sue take the fun out of parties?

The dozen or so small boys coming to my son's party next month have (I think) got past pulling teapots off tables and all over themselves. However, in the light of this week's £20,000 damages award to 13-year-old Carolyn Foreman, who was burned and scarred as a baby in an accident like this, I have been imagining the other things a gang of excited five-year-olds might do.

They could fracture skulls on the climbing frame or blind each other by using cricket stumps as spears. And if it could be proved that I had been negligent I could be liable for damages. This is the stuff of nightmares, but it gets worse.

Adults can only claim compensation for an accident within the past three years. But a child can bring an action at any time up to the age of 18, and for up to three years following. So it is possible to face a claim relating to an accident that occurred years earlier.

As Alan Davies of the Law Society points out, there may be a number of reasons for the delay. Apart from the fact that the extent of the injuries or disabilities may only become apparent over a number of years, the circumstances of the person alleged to be liable might change. "There is no point taking proceedings against someone who has no money to satisfy any judgment," he says. "But even if a person had no money at the time of the accident, they may in the future."

Two years ago the Accident Legal Advice Service (ALAS) was relaunched. It offers a free interview with a solicitor to advise on whether you have grounds for a claim after an accident — including one in someone else's home.

Davies adds: "People are becoming far better educated and realize that they often have a right to claim compensation. Partly I think it is the result of the publicity on all the major disasters. I don't think it is good, it is just that people are aware that we are not just talking about loss of earnings, but about things like pain and suffering, and the

quality of life, of things you might never be able to do."

Of course, how high the damages should be only arises if you are found liable. Could you be sued if you threw a fortieth birthday party and someone drank so much that he fell down the patio steps, breaking his leg, or worse, his back? "It's a question of responsibility," Davies says. "If someone is playing the fool, walking along the parapet of a balcony, and then falls off, you can't be held to be negligent. But if you have been serving their drinks, or if they were under age and you had been encouraging them to drink, it might be different."

And it is not just parties. Suppose your kindly next door neighbour pops in to put up a shelf for you and the ladder you have offered him breaks? Or you lend a friend your hiker, the brakes fail and there is a nasty accident? The possibilities are enough to turn anyone into a recluse.

However, according to the Association of British Insurers, around 74 per cent of households in the UK are covered by a contents policy and in the majority of cases this will also include a personal liability clause which provides cover against claims as a result of someone else having an accident in your home.

The Prudential Home Combined policy gives legal liability cover for up to £1 million, plus legal fees. Other companies set a limit of £500,000.

At present, says Chris Vecchi of the Pru, they are handling about a dozen personal liability claims a year. "We are involved in a couple of cases which could end up in possible payments of £50,000 plus. The numbers are still relatively small, but the amounts are relatively high."

"The important thing is to check that you have this kind of cover. There is no point in taking out any extra insurance for things like parties if you do. After all, if you're negligent you're negligent."

Lee Rodwell

## Big wheels

Women, incredulous car dealers were told last week, are the fastest growing sector of the car sales market. They account for about 45 per cent of private car sales and are increasingly making inroads into fleet buying. Lombard, the car finance giant, calls it "the market you can no longer afford to ignore", and last week its spokeswoman, Gill Hopkins, presented a new video to car dealers to encourage them to "put women in the driving seat" instead of writing them off.

"Women spend over £1 billion annually on cars," Hopkins said, "and I've been visiting dealerships around the country and arranging evenings to help make motor showrooms more 'women-friendly'." The evenings, organized largely through Austin Rover dealers, may include a fashion show as well as the opportunity to change a tyre under expert supervision. Hopkins hopes the brief car-

## BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

toon video, stressing the growing importance of women in the market, will make the typical male chauvinist car salesman think twice before asking what "hubby" thinks.

Details of the evenings, plus a free "woman's guide to buying and running a car", covering where to buy, what to look for and finance, can be obtained from Gill Hopkins, Lombard House, 3 Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1NP (0737 774111). Send a 10in x 8in SAE for the booklet.

## Toxin tests

Worried that the meat you eat may contain antibiotic residues, or that there are poisonous aflatoxins in your peanut butter? Doctors and scientists are meeting today to discuss breakthroughs which could lead to simple home tests.

Professor Vincent Marks, professor of clinical biochemistry at the University of Surrey, whose department has developed tests for herbicides and pesticides in water, is working on instant tests for steroids and aflatoxins which could be used like home pregnancy tests, he says, or the tests for blood sugar which diabetics administer. Marks is chairing today's meeting on "Emerging Opportunities on Rapid Testing in Europe" at the Kensington Close Hotel in London. "We have the technology," he says, "but it may be some time before it works its way into the home, and it will be very expensive at first." (Rather like the conference, which costs £600 a head for two days.)

## Quote me...

"... to get into bed with a nice man, a hot cup of tea and a good book is delicious."

Sue Townsend

## Baby claims

Many women go merrily off on maternity leave, certain that their jobs will be kept open for them. Others are summarily sacked, or shunted aside, almost as soon as their employers learn they are pregnant. Concerned by how many pregnant women were losing their jobs without the means to challenge an unfair dismissal or redundancy, the Equal Opportunities Commission has produced two new leaflets which offer a step-by-step guide to assessing the situation and preparing a claim to go to an industrial tribunal under the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act.

"Before 1986 pregnant women had no way of challenging dismissal or redundancy unless they had worked full-time for the same employer for two years or part-time for five, which left nearly half the female workforce without protection," the EOC says. "Using the SDA the EOC has built up a number of successful pregnancy dismiss-

al cases for which no qualifying period is necessary."

There have been 26 pregnancy dismissal victories under the SDA between 1987 and 1988, with compensation averaging £1,240, the EOC reports. The first victory was, appropriately, Hayes v the Mallicable Working Men's Club. To obtain the leaflets, send an SAE to the Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3JH.

## Home hero

Imagination, the innovative company which provides the special effects for the Royal Britain exhibition, has come up with a clever, comic-strip approach to its brief from the Department of Trade and Industry to educate children about safety in the home.

"Doc Hazard" was revealed to the world yesterday at Thorpe Park in Berkshire, where the Home Truths exhibition was launched under a weather-proof geodesic dome. It will remain there for about three months, open to the public, and will then tour the country for three years. Doc Hazard is the hero of a show, battling against the "peaky hazard-mongers" such as unguarded fires, overloaded sockets and glass doors. Visitors will be taken through the dome in groups of 15 to 20, and up to four parties at a time can watch the 15-minute show, which re-creates a complete house with all its potential hazards. Children are given a comic to take away. Details can be obtained from Sue Walker of Imagination on 01-379 6872 or from the DTI's Consumer Safety Unit.

Victoria McKee

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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Many a slip

Freud's classic work on jokes may be notoriously short on laughs, but Stacey Marking's biographical film *A Beginner's Guide to Freud* (Channel 4) amply compensated; indeed it was so consistently funny that any question as to its intentionality seemed irrelevant.

Freud had a lifelong obsession with trains, he instructed patients to pretend they were on a train, he left Vienna on a train, and so it must have seemed a particularly smart idea to base this portrait on his final train journey. However, this did not overcome the formal difficulties of telling a genius's life story and simultaneously elucidating his theories.

Rather than trying to balance both, the film settled for a cunning compromise: neither a lumbering old-fashioned television portrait, intercut with hilarious vignettes of his work, it was a perfect demonstration that the mysteries of the psyche do not apply to television directors; their subconscious is already programmed to the least mysterious of confessions.

Say "Paris" to a director and they reach instinctively for the jerky black-and-white footage of boulevards, say "Nazi" and they spring to clips of Hitler. Every televisual equivalent of the mixed metaphor was exploited. As an exercise in film editing, that most Freudian of associative practices, it was both obvious and predictable.

Freud could have analysed why we find men in frock-coats and outside beards mattering "fascinating" so funny, but that makes them no less laughable. David Kinsoff's preposterously fruity voice-over sounded like a Secessionist version of Mr Kipling's Exceedingly Good Cake.

The result was a regression in technique, intention and sophistication from Huston's 1962 film, in which Kinsoff also featured. It was like a *Comic Strip* parody of a Paul Muni biopic, complete with characters filling each other in using the time-honoured *Blue Peter* question technique: "Now, am I right in thinking you've got a very interesting seduction-theory?"

The question remains whether anybody could really be sufficiently ignorant of Freud's life and ideas to be enlightened by this simplistic portrait, more suited to an afternoon school slot than prime-time Channel 4. This was a badly wasted opportunity.

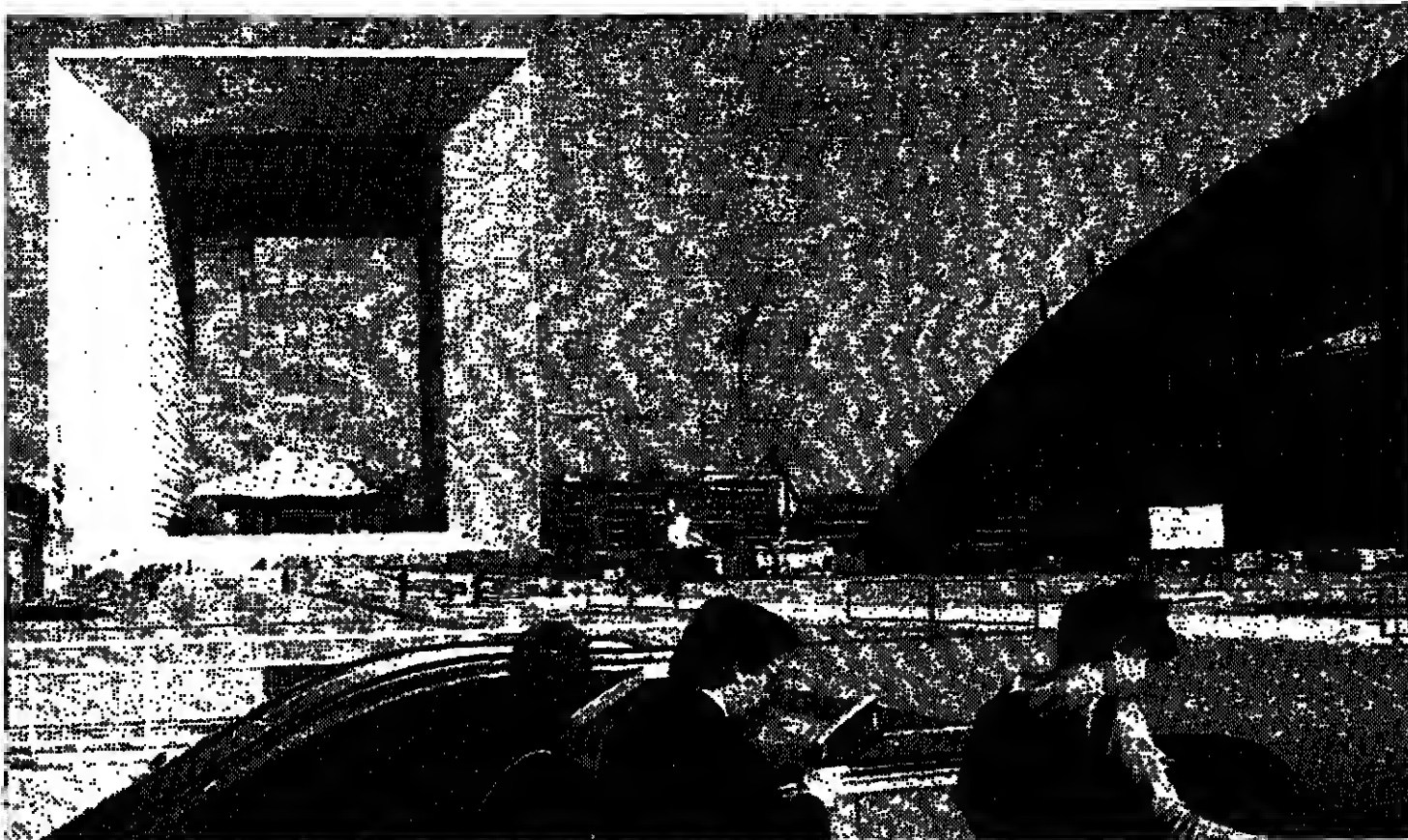
Adrian Dannatt

## TOMORROW

Paul Griffiths on Scottish Opera's new *Street Scene*

The buildings for which President Mitterrand would like to be remembered are all but complete. Deyan Sudjic assesses them

## Folies de grandeur?



Media centre *maqu岸* the arch at La Défense, a hi-tech version of the Arc de Triomphe, located in an area of Paris dominated by office-blocks

Paris's new opera house, built at breakneck speed in just four years, will open its doors on July 14, with an evening of revolutionary abandon celebrating the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. It is an opening ceremony that will be somewhat symbolic. Immediately afterwards the opera will close again for at least six months, while builders and technicians struggle to make its stage machinery work.

But symbolism counts for more than substance in France this year. President Mitterrand gave his word that the 2,700-seat opera house would open on July 14, and so it must, even if it is for one day only. Its story, like that of many of the series of large building projects that Mitterrand has initiated during his presidency, is dramatic and exciting at first sight and turns out on closer inspection to be sadly flawed. Building delays are the least of the new Opera's worries. Since the sacking of Daniel Barenboim as its artistic director, nobody knows quite what the £240 million building is to be used for.

It wasn't always like this. Five years ago, as the first of the president's positively Napoleonic *grands projets* started to appear, Paris looked to be the very model of a dynamic capital. While Britain argued and dithered endlessly about the extension to the National Gallery, and the remodelling of the Covent Garden Opera became hopelessly bogged down, Mitterrand waved his presidential wand and set in train a £2.5 billion building programme for Paris.

It includes a science museum at the old La Villette abattoir, the surrealistic idea of turning the Quai d'Orsay railway station into a museum of 19th-century art, and of course Mitterrand's famous pyramid in the midst of the Louvre. And, among much else besides, an extraordinary hi-tech version of the Arc de Triomphe, a 35-storey hollow cube at La Défense, Paris's answer to Croydon. But the reality is hardly the glittering prospect Mitterrand envisaged. The Opera, intended to bring opera to the people, leaving Garnier's Victorian prodigy to the ballet, is in disarray,

and seat prices are unlikely to reflect the populist ambitions.

The French went to endless trouble staging an international architectural competition that attracted hundreds of entries, to come up with a design they hoped was going to be as popular and influential as the Beaubourg was in the 1970s. It is nothing of the kind. The story in Paris is that the competition judges were under the impression that the anonymous winning scheme they selected had been submitted by Richard Meier, the respected American architect of the Getty's new building, and a

string of museums. As the judges saw it, what the supposed Meier was proposing wasn't quite up to his usual standard, but they were confident that once he had got the job he would soon knock it into shape. In fact they got not Meier but the unknown Carlos Ott, and what had started out as a pastiche Meier building turned into a series of cardboard clichés.

A quite extraordinary amount of accommodation is crammed into the tight corner of the site, the huge but spatially leaky circus of the Place de la Bastille. The opera stands on what was once a railway

station, surrounded uncomfortably by small Victorian buildings, like a beached whale.

The French have only themselves to blame. The brief for the opera was so tightly defined that all that was left to the architect was to provide a skin for the Rubik's cube of the interior. There are no fewer than six moving stages, capable of shuffling fully dressed back, forward, up and down. Less forgivable are the banal interiors, which bear an uncomfortable resemblance to the Festival Hall, and the pinched attempts at grand staircases.

The most monumental of all

Mitterrand's schemes is the arch at La Défense, where the city has taken, since the 1960s, to dumping its high-rise offices. Here is a building 35 storeys high, in the form of an open cube, chamfered front and back, making it look a little like a giant picture frame. The sides look blank and solid, though they are actually full of windows. And rising the full height of the structure is the most frightening lift in the world. It will shoot up and down like a glass bullet, guided only by the flimsiest of steel struts lashed together like bamboos, and stabilized by steel guy ropes.

This was to be an international media centre, when Mitterrand launched the competition for its design in 1984. It has turned out mostly as just offices. At £270 million, not even Mitterrand could build it for entirely symbolic reasons.

But it is symbolism that is the key to understanding this extraordinary structure. It closes the axis that runs dead straight for mile after mile all the way from the heart of the Louvre, through the Tuileries, up the Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, and on to La Défense. Stand in the courtyard of the Louvre, with L.M. Per's new glass pyramid behind you, and on a clear day you can glimpse the Arc de Triomphe, with the misty smudge of the new arch far beyond.

It is a gesture that would be authoritarian in a tacky, Dubai Hiltonish way, were it not for the framework steel tracery — designed by the British engineer Peter Rice at his most wilful — hanging under the arm. The arch itself was designed by the previously unknown Danish architect Otto von Spreckelsen, who did not live to see it completed.

His sketches were vague, blissfully free of detail or facts, full of poetry rather than engineering. His vision was taken over and reshaped by Paul Andreu, best known for Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport, with its windowless concrete beehive of a terminal and transparent, science-fiction escalator tubes.

Flawed they may be, but London has nothing to match these Paris projects, despite the building boom in the Docklands. It is inconceivable that in an aesthetic climate in which the views of the Prince of Wales have assumed pre-eminence and the idea of public subsidy for housing the arts is out of favour, we could have a programme anything like as ambitious as that of the French. The attitudes represented by Mitterrand are the opposite of those of the Prince. The Prince does his best to stop things; Mitterrand has rediscovered the ancient and egotistical pleasures of building. Both approaches have their strong points but are out without their drawbacks.

## Front-runners and first-timers

In Cannes there is no advance leak of the prizes. Because of a bargain with television, the jury and its secrets are cordoned by police and guard dogs until the announcements are made on stage, before the cameras. This year the jury kept us guessing to the end.

So much depends on the human chemistry of the jury itself, and this was impossible to analyse, with the austere intellectual film-maker Wim Wenders as president of a group ranging from the emotional Sally Field to Peter Handke (Wenders's chillest scenarist); from Hector Babenco, director of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, in the composer Georges Delerue, from veteran French and Italian producers to a Canadian film student and the most caustic of the new Polish film-makers, Krzysztof Kieslowski.

They were, moreover, faced with an unprecedented heterogeneous amount of films. On



the final day the shortest odds among those who make books on this kind of thing, were on three films: Denis Arcand's comic parable *Jesus of Montreal*, Spike Lee's ferocious allegory about race conflicts, *Do the Right Thing*, and Emir Kusturica's visionary but unvarnished panorama of Romanian life, *Time of the Gypsies*. A late favourite, however, was Giuseppe Tornatore's *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso*, a second Italian film to revisit the cinemas past through the story of a small-town movie house. Ettore Scola's *Spinaldi* appeals most strongly to older cinéphiles who share the director's own long memories

of post-war cinema. Tornatore's film, considerably cut from its original three hours, piles on story and sentiment in a three-part tale of the life and times of a movie enthusiast, from boyhood to a career as a film-maker.

Many of the best things in Cannes appear outside the competition, in side events. The Directors' Fortnight presented a beautiful film from Burkina Faso, *Yaaba* (Grandmother) directed by Idrissa Ouedraogo. A simple story about a boy who befriends an aged outcast lady, it brings to vivid life the daily existence of a little African village, with its characters, its gossip and its local drama.

From Algeria came an astonishing first film, *Sand* Reza. The young director, Mohamed Rachid Benadj, succeeds in telling a fictionalized story of a young peasant with no arms and a crippled leg, without any trace of

voyeurism or sensationalism. So strong is the personality of the disabled actor and so discreet and sincere the work of the director, that we are conscious only of a brave and attractive young man coping with his problems just as the rest of the world does.

Another outstanding first feature, from Malaya, India, Shaji's *Piravi* relates the story of a rural family whose son has disappeared after being tortured and liquidated by the police on account of his political involvement.

A charming oddity, finally, from Italy: The comedian Maurizio Nichetti's *Io, l'altro* (I, the other), in which Nichetti plays a film director going through the agonies of watching his neo-realist masterpiece screened on television introduced by an odious critic and constantly interrupted by the commercials.

David Robinson

## Noble master class

## CONCERT

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Jansons Barbican

seems to summon his diverse ideas towards apotheosis. When that apotheosis came the Concertgebouw demonstrated that, though there are louder orchestras around, there is none with so noble a *forte*, a rich, perfectly integrated sound without an

ounce of harshness or ostentatious glare.

In one sense, such an orchestra makes a conductor's task more difficult: expectations are very high. But Mariss Jansons offered a thoroughly prepared interpretation of much subtlety, full of sudden shifts in emphasis, and highly audacious in tempo changes. It erred, if at all, only by seeming to civilize some places which Sibelius possibly imagined as rough-hewn.

The immaculate platform rapport had not been so securely established earlier, in Brahms's First Piano Concerto, where the soloist, Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, made his own bold changes of pace which occasionally caught Jansons by surprise. Nevertheless, the pianist's chunky, deliberately effortful style aptly accentuated this concerto's sense of epic struggle, to which the Concertgebouw's beautifully whispered playing in the slow movement provided the perfect foil.

Richard Morrison

## Odious sprawl

Some time during the lengthy first part (90 minutes) of this tart comedy, by Wycheley, fed up with the constant railway and the plot's inability to get a move on, I scrawled on my programme "charming play"; and at the start of the second (75 minutes) part, when Ron Daniels, the director, advanced on the stage directions by arranging for Geraldine Alexander's male disguise to be ripped off and reveal her breasts, I amended my comment to "odious".

This was no criticism of Geraldine Alexander's bosom, nor of Joanne Pearce's, on view a few moments earlier, but of exasperation with a sour comedy's dilatory plotting and general poor returns for time invested.

The play contrasts the gruff, plain dealing character of Manly (David Calder), newly back from sea, with a variety of affected Londoners — two fops, played by Tom Fahy and Mark Hadfield as giggling parrots with horrid mouths; the worthless Olivia (Pearce),

## THEATRE

The Plain Dealer The Pit

whom Manly inexplicably trusted; sundry other dissemblers, including a litigious widow, trained in the law, who brings in a lumbering subplot of legal deception to give variety to the erotic and moral cheating displayed elsewhere.

The stage extends to the masonry of the far wall, painted patchy grey; the intention being, I dare say, to suggest that this will be a production that gives you the truth behind the fine words and fancies. Hence the general gruff, the ripped jerkin, the uncut dialogue that exposes the emptiness of affectation over and over again.

The blunt and dogged manner Calder establishes for Manly looks too unvaried to be capable of change, but it cleverly prepares for his



Fop parrot: Mark Hadfield perplexity when love proves false, whereupon the performance conveys genuine distress. Joanne Pearce turns a pretty snarl in her assured performance as Olivia — the echo of *Twelfth Night* must be deliberate, even down to the girl go-between in breeches. The amusing reversals of the last 30 minutes make one suspect that, well trimmed, this could be a racy play, perceived as razor sharp in its identification of the mores of 1676. I wish that had been the play we were given.

Jeremy Kingston

## Rather less than super

## OPERA

Der Meister und Margarita Paris Opéra

Jeans's sayings mixed up with trivia: "There is no death... yesterday we ate sweet cakes." But in Höller's libretto the authors is deleted, so that the whole feel of the episode is altered.

Irony is clearly not this composer's strong suit. Where he does try it — quoting from the *Symphonie fantastique*, for instance, in a funeral march for the editor Berlioz (no relation) — the effect is strained and destructive. This is not irony from within the work: it contributes nothing except the feeling that the composer is straining to panic.

As well he might. *Der Meister und Margarita* is full of orchestral invention, profiting as usual with Höller from Stockhausen and Boulez, but the vocal lines are undifferentiated, speaking the language of "modern opera" as it has been known since Wozzeck.

Both the scenes that still might work — Margarita's fight as a witch and Satan's hell — are killed stone-dead by the staging. The hell is about as daring as a bishop's cocktail party, and Margarita's flight is done in black-and-white film, with poor Karan Armstrong standing in

the wind, flapping her coat, and looking crest.

Apart from her brave performance as Margarita, Roland Hermann's powerful, intelligent Master stands out, and there is excellent work from a number of British singers. Richard Angas has a plum of a part as the bald, basso profundo Pilate (his scenes are also produced with some savage, punky resolve, the soldiers in mixed Roman and modern dress). Nicholas Folwell and Elizabeth Lammance are members of the devil's entourage, and Ian Caley is excellent as the suffering, confused poet. There are four more performances, the last on May 31.

Paul Griffiths

25 May, London Coliseum  
Richard Jones directs the world première of a new opera for ENO

## Six characters with six problems

**MARIAN** is married to James  
Marian is a successful business woman  
Marian would like to have children  
But she hasn't  
Maybe Marian has no marriage?

**JAMES** is married to Marian but fancies Sylvia  
James is a big noise in the City  
James likes country houses, wines from Alsace and opera  
Where does all this leave Marian?

**STANLEY** lives in Elsie's guesthouse  
Stanley never lets you forget he climbed Annapurna  
Stanley thinks Thatcher is a dangerous liberal  
Would you spend a weekend with Stanley?

**ELSIE** runs a guesthouse  
Elsie never had children  
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# TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

Contrary to my earlier prediction, it seems Labour's George Galloway is in serious danger of deselection at Glasgow Hillhead next month. Moreover, the person threatening to oust him is the wife of a fellow Glaswegian MP. Galloway's constituency executive, you will recall, passed a vote of no confidence in him last year because of his womanizing and generous expense accounts while director of War on Want. A few weeks ago his future seemed secure because he had sewn up most of the trade unions who have up to 40 per cent of the total vote. I now learn, however, that not all the unions are likely to vote.

More importantly, four of the constituency's five wards have nominated Patricia Godman, wife of Galloway and Port Glasgow MP Norman Godman. Galloway has defied the party line by supporting non-payment of the poll tax. The party leadership will not be putting itself out to save his skin.

Violinist Nigel Kennedy gave a charity concert at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday night. Princess Margaret was guest of honour. The Wren Orchestra, down from London for the occasion, were instructed to play the national anthem as she entered. With the audience in their seats, there was a commotion in the main doorway at the back, so they duly struck up the opening bars of God Save the Queen. Unfortunately the new arrival turned out to be not Her Royal Highness but a somewhat nonplussed Edward Heath. Too late to stop, the orchestra had to complete the national anthem then play it again when genuine royalty arrived.

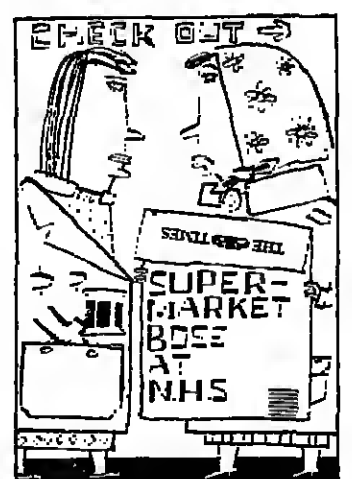
There is but one Democrat candidate who has a serious chance of winning a seat in next month's Euro-elections: Paul Tyler, an MP for all of nine months in 1974, who is fighting Plymouth and Cornwall. He should be able to mobilize that huge old West Country Liberal vote. His agent is none other than Annette Penhaligon, widow of Truro's much-loved Liberal MP, David, killed in a car crash in 1986.

There was a time when being Sports Minister was regarded as the ultimate cushy omelette. Not any more. Colin Moynihan, responsible for introducing the identity card scheme, had to have a police escort to Wembley for Saturday's FA Cup final. As his car picked its way through the crowds, fans hurled abuse and banged on the roof.

Tory MPs held rather a sober lunch to celebrate Mrs Thatcher's 10 years in power a couple of weeks back. Their Labour counterparts had much more fun. Two dozen of those first elected in 1979 held a rumbustious dinner at the Rosemary Branch theatre-restaurant in Islington on Monday night to celebrate their survival of the dark decade.

Leading the celebrations were Shadow Cabinet members Jack Straw, Frank Dobson and Martin O'Neill and the chief whip, Derek Foster. They had a cabaret entitled *Maggie's Environment or Victorian Values* and presented a copy of Labour's policy review document, *Meet the Challenge, Make the Change* to their colleague Stuart Holland. His way of meeting the challenge is not quite what the document's authors had in mind. He is changing Parliament for a lucrative academic job in Italy.

BARRY FANTONI



'Of course, he knows all about the long queues'

Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler is making an art of deflection. He was the sole Tory MP to defect to the SDP during his heady early days in 1981, only to lose his Norfolk seat in 1983. With the SDP in the doldrums, he announced yesterday that he is moving again — this time to the Democrats. "Political common sense," he calls it. Another interesting sign of the times is that Neil Greet, president of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, is pressing (with Neil Kinnock's backing, he claims) for re-admission to his local Ashfield Labour party, which ostracized him during the miners' strike. The Tories have meanwhile added a new name to their official candidates' list: that of Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe.

## Wary Bush waits for Moscow to deliver

Fred Barnes assesses a policy based on sustained pressure for reform rather than a readiness to swallow the spirit of glasnost

Washington

President Bush's job is different from that of any other American leader since the Second World War. Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, even Reagan — their task was to fight Soviet expansion and to discredit communism as an economic and political model. Now the tide has turned and those battles are being won. Bush's job is to secure the victory.

Bush knows this. His administration has completed all but one (on strategic nuclear weapons) of its reviews of every aspect of American foreign policy. And there was one overarching conclusion: since the United States and the West are winning, don't screw things up. This has bred extremely cautious policies, which are exactly the kind Bush is most comfortable with. He buys the old American adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The Bush approach, to the Soviet Union at least, has attracted the label "status quo plus", in fact, it is "status quo minus". Bush wants to maintain economic and military pressure because he believes, correctly, that they are promoting change in the Soviet Union.

That is what his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, believed too. But Reagan, in five summits with Mikhail Gorbachev, developed a romantic view of the Russians as potential friends and secret Christians. Bush does not share this.

So there is far less chance of bold initiatives, particularly sweeping concessions, towards the Soviet Union under Bush than there would have been if Reagan had served another term. Rather, Bush and his advisers are fearful of declaring victory too soon. They want to avoid, a senior Bush aide says, "doing things that are counterproductive, that relieve the pressure for reform [in the Soviet Union] or provide a reason out to go ahead with reform."

Before his May 12 speech on relations with Moscow, Bush considered about 20 policy shifts. In the speech, he included only two. And these — the old proposal for "open skies" and an end to trade restrictions if Moscow allowed more Jews to emigrate — are hardly far-reaching.

Soviet leaders expected more, but Bush insisted they will get more only when they give more. Reagan always said his attitude was "trust but verify". Bush's is "distrust or verify". In the most significant passage of his speech, Bush said: "A new relationship cannot simply be declared by Moscow, or bestowed by others. It must be earned. It must be earned because promises are never enough."

Bush's speech, including the phrase "beyond containment", was written by Robert Blackwell, the European expert on Bush's National Security Council staff. But it reflected the thinking of Robert Gates, the Deputy National Security Adviser and former second-in-command at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gates, a scholar of Soviet affairs, is the administration's chief hardliner. Perhaps the most revealing statement of Bush's presidency so far was an April 1 speech by Gates in which he emphasized the endurance of the communist system over any changes instituted by Gorbachev.

"What we seek is a Soviet Union that is pluralistic internally, non-interventionist externally, observes basic human rights, contributes to international stability and tranquility, and a Soviet Union where these changes are more than an edict from the top and are independent of the views, power and durability of a single individual," Gates said. "We can hope for such change but all of Russian and Soviet history tells us to be sceptical and cautious."

Bush is both. He has reacted sourly to some of Gorbachev's concessions. His Secretary of State, James Baker, dubbed the withdrawal of 500 missiles from Europe "a PR gimmick". When Gorbachev said he would stop military shipments to Nicaragua, Bush's response was that he would believe it when he saw it. Intelligence reports to the White House say the aid continues.

The White House calculation is that Bush can get away with this because events are moving his way. History, for once, is on America's side. As a result, public diplomacy doesn't matter much. (Still, Bush is furious with the Press for playing up Gorbachev's gambits.) What is important is to keep the winning formula intact. This, in turn, affects Washington's policy towards Europe, China, Central America etc.

As recently as his speech in Boston on Sunday, Bush declared the unity of the Atlantic alliance to be a paramount concern. Yet in the policy review, West German concerns about battlefield nuclear weapons were not taken seriously. Even now, with the issue threatening to disrupt next week's

**'Bush regards China as an ally against the Soviet bloc—he has mixed feelings about the revolt'**



Nato summit, Bush and his advisers are firmly opposed to eliminating tactical nuclear weapons or beginning negotiations soon.

Baker and the Defence Secretary, Richard Cheney, who disagree on such issues as the Strategic Defence Initiative (Cheney wants to move more rapidly on this than Baker does), agree that some nuclear weapons should stay in Germany, even if the Russians reduce their conventional forces. Having short-range nuclear weapons there is part of the pressure on Moscow.

Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, supports this, as does Blackwell. The only softener is Robert Zoellick, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, who says US policy should take into account the emergence of a new, less anti-Soviet generation of leaders in Germany.

In the policy review on China, Bush officials did not foresee a

revolt by students or anyone else. And Bush has mixed feelings about it. He regards China not so much as a communist country but as an ally against the Soviet bloc. China is part of the pressure on the Russians.

Bush has a special affinity with Deng Xiaoping, who is supremely anti-Soviet. After Emperor Hirohito's funeral in February Bush visited China to meet Deng. While Bush wants democracy in China, he does not relish the toppling of Deng to achieve it. Thus his extraordinarily muted response to the student uprising, "I don't want to be gratuitous in giving advice," he said.

In Central America, Bush abandoned the quest for military aid for the Nicaraguan Contras. He had no choice because Congress was not going to provide the aid anyway. But his alternative was clever. He demanded that the Russians stop arms shipments to the Nicaraguan government. While acting from a position of weakness, he managed to put pressure on the Soviet Union. In the Bush administration, that's the one and only strategy for victory. Fred Barnes is a senior editor of New Republic.

Raymond Plant

## Don't write off retribution

Ninety-two years ago this week Oscar Wilde wrote to the *Daily Chronicle* complaining about the appalling conditions in British prisons, which he had observed at first hand in Reading Gaol. Little has changed. In the aftermath of Risley some commentators have suggested that our penal institutions are in such a state because we do not have a clear view of the aims of penal policy.

Attitudes towards punishment fall into three types: retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation. Retribution is not usually mentioned in polite company on the left who regard it as vengeance. They look instead to deterrence or rehabilitation. However, a strong humanitarian case can be made out for punishment as retribution, and that deterrence and rehabilitation are out as humane as they might first appear.

When originally developed, the deterrent theory appeared to be enlightened and humanitarian. But, like all utilitarian theories, it crotchets at its heart a manipulative view of social policy which can ride roughshod over individual rights. The justified punishment is the one that truly deters, and this lays on moral constraints on the nature and scope of the punishment or the degree to which it can be used to mould the individual to socially desirable ends.

It justifies exemplary sentencing so that, within limits, two people committing similar crimes at different times might be given widely different sentences because of variations in public concern. The criminal is to be dealt with in such a way as to produce the best consequences for society, and this puts no internal moral constraint on punishment other than social covention.

Deterrence theories reject rights and equity as fundamental to punishment and treat individual criminals as means to social goals. They also assume that we can know the likely deterrent consequences of particular forms of punishment, which is dubious.

In the 1960s, it was argued that the whole idea of punishment was primitive and should be replaced by rehabilitation and therapy. In its most extreme forms, such as Karl Menninger's *The Crime of Punishment*, criminal behaviour was seen as the symptom of a pathological personality disorder which was the result of early nurture and environmental influence.

To solve the problem of crime, it was said, we should not use the blunt instrument of punishment but rather look to the individual circumstances of each criminal and try, through therapy, to modify those features of his personality which disposed him to crime.

This put a lot of trust in professional judgement about the nature of the therapeutic regime and entrenched discretionary power with parole or probation officers, for example.

This professional authority in turn depended on the view that there was an explanation for human behaviour which would enable us to diagnose the nature of this personality disorder and the appropriate form of treatment. This claim is highly disputable and, in any case, is an ineffective ideal, given the nature of British prisons.

However, in common with the utilitarian view, it not only treats the criminal as an object of social policy but also seeks to change his character. It has a view of the human personality which makes it difficult to acknowledge that such people have rights, because they are not really responsible agents.

So what about the maligned retributive theory? Central to it is the doctrine that the individual criminal is responsible for his crime. Guilt then becomes the necessary and sufficient condition for punishment.

It assumes that a person should be punished according to the social abhorrence of the crime. This may be what lies behind the claim of an eye for an eye, in the biblical version of retribution — not that the punishment should exactly fit the crime, but rather that there should be a strict rule of punishment which follows from the nature of the crime.

The prisoner has a right to be treated as a responsible agent and according to a strict rule; not in such a way as denies this, as the therapeutic approach does, or in a way that can be varied by the demands of social utility, which is central to the deterrent view.

Retribution also fundamentally differs from revenge, which is personal, acknowledges no internal limits, takes pleasure from the act, and is not generalizable. The whole point of the retributive theory is to stick to a general rule of just retribution.

The left in Britain is now interested in the idea of rights, citizenship and limitations of discretionary power of professionals. As such it should heed what in the US has come to be called the justice model of punishment, rather than rely on approaches which are manipulative, do not encourage equitable treatment and rely too much on professional judgement.

Guilt, responsibility, equity, restitution, expiation, are central to a retributive theory. In so far as other theories detach punishment from these values they may lead to a criminal justice system which does not command clear public support. The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

## The American model Europe must avoid

Janet Daley warns against a unity riddled with inconsistencies

The Eurocentrists' argument, which in its most extreme form advocates a United States of Europe, is a proposition favouring a union of an oddly incoherent kind. Taking the United States of America as at least some kind of prototype, the argument seems to run on the assumption that the American model of federation is itself unproblematic while at the same time proposing a degree of unification more extreme than the American system.

In US experience, a confederation of independently governed states is, in fact, riddled with intractable contradictions. It succeeds only to the extent that every new political generation finds an equilibrium between federal intervention and state sovereignty which outrages the fewest pressure groups.

Ever since Abraham Lincoln waged civil war against the southern states to stop them seceding from the Union, there has been more or less explicit conflict between the interests and sympathies of state and

federal authorities. Until recent presidencies, such as those of Carter and Reagan, antipathy to Washington's power remained deeply ingrained in the South, where the federal government was regarded essentially as a northern outfit attempting to liberate liberal urban values on the state's old agrarian Confederacy.

The 1960s disputes over civil rights, most notably the desegregation of schools, made the shibboleth of "states' rights" an unavailing cover for racist policies. But the tension between centralized control and state autonomy is a permanent fixture of American political life. Its endless debates and temporary resolutions provide a lesson for Europeans who see constitutional unification as an idyll of rationality and consensus.

It is of most interest, in terms of European debate, that those areas of public life which have proved almost irreconcilable to national agreement have been

issues of social policy: not only attitudes to racial discrimination, but the treatment of criminality (i.e., capital punishment) and personal morality (abortion). The attempts to produce a consistent national position on questions like these have come closer to tearing the country apart than has any external threat.

To see why the superimposition of a national policy on say, capital punishment, is so explosively contentious, it is necessary to understand that every state in the US is in charge of its own criminal law. The police, judiciary and criminal justice systems of each state are independent of one another to the extent that a criminal (unless wanted for a specifically federal offence) can escape prosecution by crossing the state boundary.

When the murders of civil rights workers threatened to go unpunished in the southern state where they were committed, the

recourse for an outraged federal government was a roundabout appeal to the Constitution. By defining the killing of a person as the ultimate deprivation of his civil rights, murder could be classified as a federal offence and thereby come under Washington's jurisdiction. This kind of circuitous legalism constantly bedevils a federation of sovereign states affiliated by a written constitution.

Where the American union seems least troubled is in its delegation of taxation responsibilities. Here there is an ironic contrast with the Eurocentric lobby. Americans pay a universal federal income tax to support programmes of national government. They also pay taxes which vary enormously depending on the political complexion of the state government and its internal spending needs for infrastructure and social services.

Each state organizes its economy on its own fiscal and social

priorities. Nevada receives enough revenue from its legalized gambling industry to make personal state taxes virtually non-existent. New York, with its enormous inner-city problems, levies high state taxes.

Decisions about what form and level this taxation should take are made internally and idiosyncratically, producing occasional absurd anomalies (crossing the state boundary to buy cheaper liquor is an old American custom). Indirect taxes, particularly sales taxes, are imposed in many states, but are not universal. That is to say, the completely free market in goods and services which prevails between states in the US is quite unhampered by the lack of standardized point-of-sale taxation which we call VAT.

It is quite true that this lack of uniformity creates inequalities for producers of the kind feared by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. It is

more expensive to produce and sell goods in some parts of the country than in others. What this means in practice is that the market sorts itself out. Industry has had to move from the more costly areas to the cheaper and more spacious (which often meant further west) and labour has had to move with it. Most significantly, poorer areas which marketed cheaper goods had a chance to increase their regional wealth by their extra competitiveness.

The American experience suggests that the operation of a deregulated free market between economically independent states is thoroughly feasible. What is much more dubious is the social and political harmonization of distinct regions with their own social histories. If the US, with its common language and degree of cultural homogeneity, finds this problem nearly insurmountable, what can be the prospect for Europe with its tenaciously individual national identities? Janet Daley is an author and journalist.

## A network that's just a maze

"If you go to the third floor, you'll find a tea bar open," said the dresser. So I did, because I need black, warm liquid poured into me at regular intervals. I got out of the lift and set off into uncharted Television Centre. The building is round. I passed the same fire hose for the third time before realizing that I was going in circles, not progressing towards the tea bar at all.

This is the BBC itself, mchinks. Part old-fashioned servicemen's club, part monastery and part permanently closed, the infrastructure of the BBC is its own convoluted metaphor. Within the flagship, Broadcasting House, it is impossible not to get lost, so tortuous and confused are the corridors of Sound Broadcasting. When it was felt necessary to expand the offices, as Retih's monster puffed itself up, the BBC built or

acquired the premises immediately behind. The premises in front had six storeys; the premises behind eight storeys. To get from one to another, descend to the basement and wander desolately in a subterranean labyrinth for an hour or so. Now go outside and start again.

Every BBC building has its "spur". There are annexes to the annex. Fire escapes are major conduits. In Bristol, or Goochilly, yellow-faced troglodytes wait in their cubby holes for legionnaire's disease or a pay rise to end their misery. But misery is their lot. They are part of an institution where the corridors do not join up. The stairs

lead nowhere. The right hand does not know how to find out what the left hand is doing. This is BBC thinking.

So is the carpet. It is made of brown and yellow zig-zag lines that swim and wobble before your feet. It is everywhere. Does it represent interference? Loss of vertical hold?

Did you notice with what glee senior management buckled down as the strike hit home? Possibly not. Alan Sapper and the unions must have felt a chill run through their broadcasting systems. The whole shooting match could be run by half a dozen suits who last made a programme in 1965. And how they loved it. It



GRIFF RHYS JONES

was "nice to be nearer the coal face again". David Hatch, managing director of radio, was quoted in the *Observer* as saying, "Oh come on, David! Let none of us pretend that making radio pro-

grammes has any resemblance to real work. It's not paid enough for a start.

Long ago the great jelly that is public broadcasting went through a spectacular metamorphosis. It turned itself upside down to become an inverted gelatin pyramid. It is not possible to pay the Indians more than the chiefs, so they make more chiefs, more editors, more controllers, more directors. No wonder there are plenty of them around to twiddle knobs when the workers walk out. No wonder they need annexes and spurs and Portakabins all over the shop. But the great BBC game of clambering up Auntie's skirts was created. You begin by

acquiring a fistful of initials, AHDCFA. You seek to reduce them to just two: DG.

Of course, you are unlikely to get promoted to the sixth floor until you can find your way there without a map. Thus kids are discouraged from whizzing and outsiders have difficulty finding their way to their interview. It is impossible for a true BBC person to conceive of an outsider having anything to contribute, anyway. If you have not endured the privations of the system how can you inflict them on others?

Up there, somewhere, is a quiet office containing the Head of Doing Nothing in Particular Except Going to the Occasional In-

ternational Film Festival as the Representative of the Best Broadcasting System in the World.

Let nobody be disabused. It is the best broadcasting system in the world. How could it be anything else? A man who runs a department with seven sub-heads, a couple of editors, three or four assistant editors and thousands of inter-departmental meetings to go to every week has very little time to watch television. Over in team Mrs Thatcher's Independent Broadcasting Land, a few sharp-eyed men scrutinize their ratings. How are things doing? Are we getting our money's worth? Are people who buy electric hedge-trimmers watching our programmes? Back at the BBC the vast shuddering jelly of a bureaucracy does not yet know how to stop good programmes being made. It is a grave mistake to force them to learn.



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## ON JUDGMENT

Senior judges of the English courts handed down their verdict yesterday on the radical proposals of their chief, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. On his case for the restructuring of the legal profession, they have found against him on two essential points.

They oppose the opening of general advocacy in the higher courts to those who are not barristers, and they oppose the transfer of the supervision of professional training and discipline out of their own hands to a committee appointed by the Government. These are closely related objections, and indeed the second point, which at first seems the more technical, is probably the more fundamental.

It is certainly where the judges are on strongest ground. The difficulty, however, is that it forms a link in the chain of logic of the whole, and it is not easy to see how the judges' persuasive objections can be met without undermining most of what the Lord Chancellor is trying to achieve.

Logic is the great strength of Lord Mackay's position, as befits the thinking of one who was a mathematician before he became a lawyer. He started the Green Paper which he published in January with a simple statement of first principles, from which he went on to deduce a basis for the provision of legal services which only occasionally intersected with the present system, and only then, it seemed, by chance.

Faced now with the public and professional response, including yesterday's monumental document from more than a hundred High Court and Appeal Court judges, that very logical consistency has become a problem for him. A more pragmatic set of proposals would have made it easier to offer concessions to his critics where they had a good point.

The right of audience in the higher courts, according to the Green Paper, should be awarded to all who are qualified. Supervision of the right should be in the hands of a body which stands apart from the various branches of the legal profession and their sectional interests, namely the Lord Chancellor's department itself, advised by a mainly lay committee, working according to a published code of conduct.

This system would let in any solicitor or indeed a member of any other profession, for instance a chartered accountant, who could show himself adequately equipped and experienced. But the proposal that a Government department should assume responsibility for

the licensing and disciplining of advocates is a dangerous one, as the judges have said.

At present the right of audience is controlled by the judges themselves, and they are now and for the foreseeable future likely to be almost exclusively former barristers (though they have sensibly conceded that ex-solicitors among the judges of the county courts should be eligible for the High Court bench). As a result there is a continuity of professional background and a unity of ethos between judges and those who appear before them; and a barrister who misbehaves will be called to account within the terms of that ethos by the judges themselves when they act in their capacity as policemen of the Bar's standards.

The relationship between a barrister and a judge is a subtle one, and it is no coincidence that the former are known as "counsel", one who advises on the law. They advise their clients, but they also advise the court, and their professional duty requires that they do so fairly. Judges greatly appreciate the help that a good barrister can give them, and "good", to a judge, is not necessarily synonymous with single-minded loyalty to a client's interests. It is an axiom of the Bar that a barrister's first duty is to the court.

The Bar prides itself on being a close-knit professional community, in which sharp practice is quickly spotted and corrected by all the implicit and explicit pressures of community life. They work together in chambers, which are grouped together in the Inns. Standards are set from the top by the influence of the judges themselves, and by leading counsel and heads of chambers, all of whom belong to that same professional community.

It is this system which the judges were defending yesterday, as the Bar Council did in its own evidence to Lord Mackay three weeks ago. And in both cases the problem is its intangibility: the public has to take it more or less on trust that it works, and has shown an increasing reluctance to do so.

It is a hard match for the mathematical logic of Lord Mackay's approach, which has the appeal of simplicity, rationality and objectivity. The Lord Chancellor's difficult task now is to apply his remarkable ingenuity and intelligence to devising a variation on his first thoughts which would preserve his own basic principles but accommodate as far as possible those principles most dear to his brothers in the judiciary.

## LABOUR'S EUROPE

In six years Mr Neil Kinnock has reversed Labour's attitude to the European Community. The party's manifesto in 1983 declared that the next Labour government would be "bound to find continued membership a most serious obstacle". Withdrawal was, therefore, "the right policy for Britain" or, as Mr Kinnock himself put it more crudely at the time: "We want out of the Common Market."

Today Mr Kinnock declares that Labour wants Britain to take full advantage of working with "our European partners". Indeed, a main theme of its campaign for next month's elections to the European Parliament is that Labour is now more constructively European in spirit and in intention than is Mrs Thatcher.

Although Labour's new claim to be the better European party is hard to credit, its new unqualified commitment to Europe is to be welcomed. It is a constructive move forward, whatever its debt to expediency. Most of the policy positions outlined yesterday in the party's manifesto for the European elections were sensible enough.

Labour commits itself, for instance, to making the single market work and it accuses the Conservatives of failing to prepare Britain adequately for 1992. It wants reform of the CAP and higher environmental standards, while it opposes full-scale monetary union and harmonizing of VAT just as the Conservatives do.

On these and other main issues there is nothing to choose between Labour's position

and that of the Conservatives. Labour too is highly cautious, not to say timorous, about joining the EMS, which Mr Kinnock himself discussed yesterday in terms hardly different from Mrs Thatcher's formula that it can only be done when the time is right.

The main issue of substance between the parties is the claim of the European Commission to lay down for all member states a social law on industrial relationships and worker participation. Labour accuses the Tories of wanting a market without a community and deregulation without social obligation. But the reality is that Mr Kinnock, like M Delors, sees the Commission's social policy as advancing the socialist cause in all the member states, while to Mrs Thatcher it is socialism by the back door.

Mr Kinnock's tactic of presenting himself as "the better European" ought not to work. But, because of the impression left by some of Mrs Thatcher's recent utterances, Mr Kinnock could well make headway on this argument. He is helped by the division of opinion within the Tory party over Mrs Thatcher's attitudes.

Labour's new Europeanism will blend with its campaign to secure from the voters an adverse judgement on 10 years of Thatcherism. It is a platform shaky in logic. None the less, Mrs Thatcher and the Tories will not easily defeat Labour's campaign unless the tone of their rhetoric on Europe in the coming weeks gives fewer hostages to fortune than it has done hitherto.

## THE IVORY TRADE

The Government's decision to support calls for a total ban on the international ivory trade is the first in the European Community and very welcome. But Britain and others may have to do much more if the African elephant is to be saved from extinction in the next decade.

When the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) was signed in 1973, the Indian elephant was immediately placed in Appendix One, which bans the trade in its products altogether. But its African cousin was covered by Appendix Two, which allows a controlled trade to carry on.

This was because up to 2,000,000 of those great beasts still roamed the bush. No special threat to their future was foreseen. Since then, however, their population has declined, to 700,000 at most - and possibly to only half that number.

Tanzania and Kenya have led the way in demanding that it now be upgraded to Appendix One. Britain is now one of five more countries to support them - in advance of the next Cites conference in October.

Whether this is enough, however, remains doubtful. For one thing the convention applies only to the 102 countries which have signed it. For example it excludes the United Arab Emirates, although Dubai is an important centre of illegal trading.

Even those countries which have signed it can make a "reservation" to opt out of a particular provision. Japan for instance, the biggest single market for ivory, will need to have its tiny ecological conscience firmly pricked. So too will Hong Kong which, with an ivory trade worth \$50 million, may resent interference or pressure from Whitehall.

Support for the East African initiative is by no means unanimous anyway. The chief threat to the elephant comes not from the legitimate trade but from the poachers, who are responsible for most of the 70,000 killed each

year. As the poachers flout the international convention already, why, it may be asked, should the proposed change make any difference? There is a risk that by banning international dealing altogether the trade would move completely underground.

The new rules would certainly be difficult to administer. The ban would be on international dealing in "new ivory" which has been obtained after the new ruling has come into force (probably next January). But, as raw ivory has a long life in the warehouse, the job of customs officers and police in distinguishing between old and new consignments would be hard.

According to this argument, international effort should concentrate not so much on changing the law as on trying to reinforce the present one. The richer countries should help the Third World catch the criminals by supplying them with more funds and equipment. At the same time they should encourage conservation measures to rebuild declining elephant herds in Africa.

The power behind these arguments should not, however, deflect this Government or any others from their purpose. A total ban would at least help to remove confusion over which batch of fresh ivory is legal and which is not.

The Government should, indeed, press for an immediate ban by the European Community, without waiting for the Cites meeting in October. If other parts of the world followed this lead it might inhibit a rise in the slaughter before next January.

The world can live happily without ivory. Some manufacturers still use it for piano keys, but most now use bone or other substitutes. The world would survive without the elephant. But it would be a sadder place - and later generations might wonder at the profligate, needless slaughter.

## Step by step to wage awards

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Has not the time come when some statutory regime should be devised for orderly resolution of disputes over pay and conditions of work in publicly-owned transport undertakings? Is it not appropriate that before industrial action of any kind may be taken lawfully, resort to formal arbitration should be requisite?

Whilst acknowledging the overriding rights at common law to terminate on due notice, ought not a condition (to ensure arbitration) to be a standard term of the contract of employment?

If acceptable in principle, proposals for implementation could be set out in a Green Paper. It is not suggested that the arbitral award should have legal effect after due determination of the contract of employment. It is, however, suggested that the jurisdiction of the High Court should be extended not only to order resort to arbitration in this regard, but also to grant relief, at the suit of any interested person adversely affected.

These matters, and the composition of the tribunal, indeed the form and substance of proposed legislation, cannot be resolved without the full consideration of debate in Parliament. But surely in a "step by step" approach the public interest demands that yet another step be taken in this direction?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, LORD CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY, 2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, ECA, May 18.

## Taxis and pollution

From Mr Warren Peston

Sir, In reply to Dr Tim Oliver's observations (May 17) concerning single passengers in taxis on the day of the Tube and bus strike, his suggestion of taxi-sharing and meters to apportion fares, has already been tried and proved to be a total failure (I write as a London taxi driver).

In October, 1986, shared taxis were appointed at many Heathrow stations and at Heathrow Airport and each taxi driver had an alternative fare table to accommodate such rides. The savings could have been as much as £10 per person on a ride from Heathrow Airport to King's Cross station, as an example.

Unfortunately, the majority of taxi riders showed complete apathy and after a lengthy trial period the experiment just fizzled out. The majority of British people like to keep themselves to themselves and maybe do not like to be in an enclosed area with a complete stranger. Also, with the upsurge of violence in London, one may never know what type of person one might be sharing with. Yours faithfully, W. PESTON, 22 Alders Road, Edgware, Middlesex, May 18.

## Letterbox standards

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Having delivered locally some 3,000 letters in the recent county election, I have every sympathy with the lot of the postman. Many letterboxes are practically at ground level, requiring an all-fours attitude for delivery. Very strong draught excluders resist ingress of material. Vertical apertures with the hinge at the top mean that two hands are required for insertion. Delivery is exacerbated in many cases where there is a fierce dog inside, ready to chew anything inserted - fingers included!

Is it not time that, at least for new houses, there should be a standard type of opening for letters, or at least the front door? Where there is some distance between a house and the footpath there should be a lockable box on a post where the house path joins the sidewalk - as is normal in the USA.

Yours truly, JOHN F. MARTIN, 57 Tyndham Hill, Loughton, Essex, May 12.

## Dead-heat elections

From Mr J. R. Tait

Sir, Tossing a coin to decide the result of a dead-heat election (Letters, May 13, 17, 22) is frivolous and wilfully neglectful of the opinions and needs of at least half of the voting electorate. Is it too much to expect that politicians could have common sense sufficient to ask each candidate to serve half of the term of office?

Yours faithfully, JIM TAIT, Muckley Butts Cottage, Longhorsley, Morpeth, Northumberland.

## Loss of ancient sites

From Viscountess Hanworth

Sir, Mr David Brock's laudable indignation (May 10) about the loss of the Roman site of Lamboussa in North Cyprus is misplaced. It may have been "wantonly destroyed", but not by the Turkish Army.

In 1913 the late John L. Myers conducted a thorough investigation of what he called "a continuous ruin-field, extending from the seafront about half a mile south of the Lamboussa [sic] promontory and the same distance east of the

## Striking a balance in the EC debate

From the Editor of New European

Sir, There can be no doubt that the European situation has become somewhat bizarre and *The Times* leader (May 18) was welcome as introducing an element of sense and balance into the debate. We need to look at Europe (not just the EC countries, though all should eventually become the real Community) as a whole. Leaving aside the matters which are global, there are four significant levels of decision-making within Europe.

First there are, as the editorial pointed out, some issues that affect all Europe: environment - though not all environmental issues - is a good example. Rabies might well be another, and the Commission has just put proposals to the countries outside the EC, including the Eastern bloc, for using oral vaccines to wipe it out. Rabid dogs would certainly not recognise national boundaries!

Trade might be another, although perhaps this would be more appropriately left to GATT to deal with (the effort should be put into making GATT work). The truly European issues should be clearly defined and the Commission should limit itself to direct involvement in these, and in these alone, and concentrate on doing its limited work effectively.

Secondly, there are issues which may affect parts of Europe greater than any one nation state, and common policies should be devised for the parts concerned, and only those parts. For example, countries on the North Sea might share in a North Sea environmental common policy, whereas those on the Mediterranean should have a Mediterranean policy. Such common policies that cover more than one nation state but need not be Europe-wide could come under the auspices of the Community, but not under its direct control.

Thirdly, there are the nation states. It should be up to their governments and their parliaments to see that nothing that could be done at the national level was passed up to any higher authority. On the whole, this seems to be precisely what the Prime Minister is doing. Above this level the party political approach should hardly be relevant.

Fourthly, there are intimate and local levels of government. Likewise it is up to the representatives of the interests of the people to see that nothing that can be dealt with at these levels is passed up to the higher levels.

Such an approach does not imply opposition to a social discussion or any of the well-intended regulations of the Euro-

pean institutions; it merely insists on one of the fundamentals of all good government, namely that regulations should be made and applied as closely as possible to the people whom they affect.

There is no surer way of getting any institution discredited than for it to apply regulations which people know in their hearts are inappropriate for them. If it is to endure in the new volatile geopolitical situation which is developing, this is the lesson that the European Community must learn. Yours faithfully, JOHN COLEMAN, Editor, New European, New European Publications Ltd, 14-16 Carrou Road, SW8.

From Sir David Crouch  
Sir, Michael Binyon, in his article (May 19) on the European Commission's proposed social charter of workers' rights, rightly deplores the attitude of the Government in its outright opposition to the idea. Mrs Thatcher has condemned it as "backdoor socialism" and will have nothing to do with it.

Surely we have something to contribute to improving industrial relations of a positive nature, rather than adopting the Victorian stance that the managers alone know best what is good for a company.

I was trained in an enlightened company, ICI, where I found that I had a voice in what was decided. As long ago as 1926, when the company was founded, its first chairman, Sir Alfred Mond, said:

We still read about employers and employees, about masters and men; whereas we all know that they are all employed... The true phrase today is "co-workers in industry".

A liberal approach, perhaps, but to the employed person no less important than the bottom line.

I have always believed in consultation and cooperation between manager and employee. In the Armed Services it is vital (the officers might be killed) in industry it is not social engineering, it is common sense. It has not done any harm to the West German economy, and from my personal observation there it has given employees the status of being valued partners in their business activity.

If the Government are seriously afraid it might lead to "backdoor socialism" they should go to the Community with their argument and not just their anger. They owe that to the electorate who voted for our partnership in Europe.

Yours faithfully, DAVID CROUCH, The Oast House, Fisher Street, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent.

## Deep-seated desire

From Mr Brian Drakeford

Sir, Whilst sympathising with a 16-stone, 50-year-old father's plight when he undertakes a two-hour stint on a school chair, I fear Mr Wysock Wright (May 19) has not quite got the picture with respect to school finances today. He suggests that "it would not be a major capital expenditure to buy some sensibly-sized chairs" when in fact the cost involved would be impossible for a school alone to carry.

I received the grand sum of £21.55 for each of my pupils for the school year 1988-89 and I know to the penny how that was spent. Fixed expenditure items such as toilet paper, soap, etc. (£1.01 per child), general stock (£2.02), and printing reports to governors in accordance with DES requirements (£0.26) all cost the school £9.24 per child before any consideration of the curriculum could be made. Then, in partnership with my staff and the school's governors, the remaining £12.31 per child was distributed between curriculum areas, in accordance with our agreed objectives. And that is that.

In order to provide more suitable chairs for gatherings of parents I estimate I would need to find another £14 per child (if I could negotiate a 30 per cent discount) and then somewhere outside the school in which to store them for the 280 days of the school year they would not be in use (there being no adequate storage space in the building).

Finally, I would need to renegotiate a county council-approved

post description for the person, as yet unknown, who would be required to remove the chairs from store after the afternoon session, clean them, set them up, and later return to store, prior to the beginning of the morning session the following day.

Welcome to the real world, Mr Wysock Wright! Yours faithfully, BRIAN DRAKEFORD (Headteacher), Appleton School, Appleton Road, Kingston-upon-Hull, North Humberside.

From Mr D. G. Fowler-Watt  
Sir, As the headmaster of one of the children to whom Mr Wysock Wright refers, I am writing in answer to the point he makes concerning the appalling discomfort suffered by generations of parents and grandparents at school functions over the years.

I would agree with him that this is something that should not have to be tolerated in this day and age. With this in mind, we have designed and built, recently, a fine auditorium with imaginatively constructed upholstered bench seating, which not only provides ample leg room and total back support, but also offers total comfort both to the 10-year-old and the 16-stone 50-year-old.

I am sorry that Mr Wysock Wright was not able to have the benefit of this as a parent, but perhaps he may do so one day as a grandparent! Yours faithfully, D. G. FOWLER-WATT, Headmaster, Brambletye, East Grinstead, Sussex, May 19.

## Defining poverty

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, Those who are critical of Mr Moore's denial that poverty exists today in Britain (report, May 12, Letters, May 17, 18) are really talking about misery, which does indeed still exist. But poverty and misery are not the same thing. Poverty (that is to say, a lack of the things which money can buy) may often be accompanied by misery, but it is nevertheless possible to be poor but happy, and certainly also possible to be rich and miserable.

One may sympathize with the

clergy, who are among Mr Moore's more vociferous critics, if in this secular age they are finding it difficult to deal with misery, although that is their proper function. But they should be careful about criticizing others for failing to deal with it any better. Providing more money may do something to alleviate poverty, but this by itself won't cure misery.

Yours etc, C. B. GOODHART, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, May 18.

reported of Lamboussa: "Now, alas, it has been taken over by the army and one can only view the remains accompanied by a suspicious and resentful Greek conscript". There are very many instances where armies' requirements are in conflict with those of conservationists, and it is doubtful whether English people ought to throw stones, has Mr Brock spared a thought for Cranborne Chase or Salisbury Plain?

Yours faithfully, ROSAMOND HANWORTH, Quoin Cottage, Shamley Green, Guildford, Surrey, May 17.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (01)782 5046.

## Muslim case for separate schools

From Mr Ibrahim B. Hewitt

Sir, Your leader, "Paying for a dream" (May 18), is sadly misleading on a topic which is rapidly becoming notable for misrepresentations in the media. Your old, flagging, arguments against Muslim voluntary-aided schools are stated with no apparent thought for their reasoning, unlike those of Professor Hiskett and the Social Affairs Unit (report, May 18) who, you admit, "published a reasoned case in favour of... State-funded Muslim schools".

"Surviving institutions" or not, Church of England schools are denominational and, despite your claims, there is no logic in denying Muslims such schools whilst maintaining Church of England, Roman Catholic, and Jewish schools. To do so is blatantly discriminatory in this, your beloved "secular, liberal democracy".

You claim that "Islam is not a European faith"; true, it is a world-wide faith, born in the Middle East, as were Judaism and Christianity. Resort to such petty ethnocentricity highlights the shallowness of your arguments.

Why claim that Darwinism is "rejected" in Muslim schools when it is taught alongside other scientific theories? From your leader, one would think that Darwinism is *fact* acceptable to all.

We believe that single-sex Muslim schools will actually increase the career opportunities for Muslim girls, who presently seriously under-achieve in State schools under the "influence of the majority culture of Western Europe".

Yes, we have a right to our dreams and, as taxpayers, while the law allows it (and others avail themselves of it) we have a right to have our dreams paid for by the State. To deny British Muslims this denies the very basis of democracy.

Yours faithfully, IBRAHIM B. HEWITT, (General Secretary), Islamia Schools Trust, 2 Digswell Street, NW7.

## Cattle disease

From Mr Peter H. J. Jackson

Sir, The Ministry of Agriculture has recently got its act together in minimising the compensation to farmers with a beast that has been destroyed having contracted bovine spongiform encephalopathy (report, May 19). Compensation is 50 per cent of the price that the farmer would have achieved with a healthy beast.

Surely the way to contain this deadly and serious disease in the shortest possible time is to incentivise farmers to locate and report BSE. A premium over the price of a healthy animal of £100 should do the trick.

Yours faithfully, PETER H. J. JACKSON, 21 Malmains Way, Beckenham, Kent.

From the President, Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association  
Sir, Geoffrey Cannon, in his article (Spectrum, May 19), advises us not to eat meat products, at least until cows' brains and spinal cord are banned for human consumption.

All members of the BMMA had already undertaken not to use these in meat products, together with other parts of the carcass which the consumer would not expect to find in them. They are bound by codes which also embrace methods of manufacture and temperatures and which are independently monitored by the Meat and Livestock Commission through regular factory visits and product analysis.

Meat products have made an important contribution to the nation's diet for many centuries. Your readers may rest assured that they are being produced by our members to standards which will allow consumers to enjoy them with confidence in the years ahead.

Yours faithfully, DAVID SAMWORTH, President, Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association, 19 Cornwall Terrace, NW1.

## Farm hazards

From Mrs Barbara Hyde

Sir, A man in a white boiler suit and a white hat, thick black rubber gloves, thick black boots - and a mask! What can this be? A worker from a chemical warfare factory? No! This is the local farm labourer and having filled his tractor with pesticide/fertiliser he rumbles forth to the fields around my house and sprays.

Where is my mask? Where is the mask for my children? God help us!

Yours faithfully, B. J. HYDE, Caters Farm, Cowlinge, Newmarket, Suffolk.

## Cack-handed

From Mr John Hartman

Sir, Mrs Leeming (May 16) and her son-in-law may wish to consider the use of "technopaganism", coined (in contrast to "technocrat") by a colleague about two years ago. This is still in use in our office to describe people baffled by computers, word-processors, electronic mail and other wizardry. Yours sincerely, JOHN HARTMAN, 42 Gisborne Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

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## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued on page 41

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## INFORMATION SERVICE

## New look at the nude



Armed with the findings of recent research into sexual politics and representation, a new exhibition examines 120 versions of the nude made since 1450. Margaret Walters, in her pioneering study *The Nude Male*, published in 1978, concluded that despite feminist advances there is still in art "a rigid division between the sex that looks and the sex that is looked at". This is also the irreducible conclusion one draws from studying Bruegel's measurable photograph (above) of a mannequin in a nude pose. His white coat, tie and waistcoat, shiny shoes, creased trousers and clinical, appraising stare make him look more like a professor of anatomy than an artist. Indeed, he was forerunner in choosing models: "Their forms are not always perfect," he remarked, "but they are always expressive." The results of his compulsive drawing from life can be seen in the background of the unfinished canvas on the easel in his studio. This show explores relationships between model and artist and addresses the recent upsurge of interest, especially among women artists, in the male nude. Another section deals with the startling similarity between psychological female nudes depicted by Old Masters and poses struck in pornographic magazines. *The Nude: A New Perspective* starts today at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW1 (01-938 8500), Monday to Saturday 10am-5.30pm, Sunday 2.30-5.50pm, free, until September 3. David Lee

★ **R.E.M.:** Now lumbered with the corniest tag: "Probably the best rock band in the world." Bantam, 244 Galloway, Glasgow (041 552 4601) 7.30pm, £7.50.

## JAZZ

★ **RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT:** A rare club appearance from the pianist-composer who has bridged the gap between jazz and classical music. Bass Club, 35 Cornhill Street, London N1 (01-725 2478) 8.45pm, £5. Tonight and tomorrow.

★ **IRAKERE:** Continuing the annual residency from Chuchito Valdez's mammoth Cuban ensemble. Support from the Loose Tubes saxophonist Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-438 0747) 9.30pm, £12 non-members. Until June 16.

★ **COURTNEY PINE:** Coltrane-style work-outs offering a hint of the new album, due out later in the year. Support from the James Taylor Quartet. Town & Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-284 0803/1221) doors open 7pm, £5.50 in advance.

★ **MOSE ALLISON:** The idiosyncratic blues-jazz vocalist approaches the end of his supper club residency. Pizzeria on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5550) 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £10 admission. Until Sat.

★ **AXEL ZWINGENBERGER:** Peter Shaver's new study of boogie-woogie. "A Left Hand Like God", compares the German pianist to Albert Einstein. Brighton Jazz Festival, The Concorde, Madeira Drive (0273 68460) doors open 8.30pm, £4.

## GALLERIES

★ **EMILE ANTOINE BOURDELLE (1861-1929):** 70 bronzes exhibited in the open air by a more classical contemporary of Rodin. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Branson, nr Wakefield (01924 85302), daily 10am-6pm, free, until October 29.

★ **FRANCESCO CLEMENTE:** Recent pastels on the theme of transience and death. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 9 Dering Street, London W1 (01-499 4100), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until June 31.

★ **CAROL ANN SUTHERLAND:** New paintings in a naive style reminiscent of Amedeo Modigliani. Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, London W1 (01-434 5783), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, free, until June 24.

★ **JOHN BROMFIELD REES (1912-1964):** Paintings of Welsh miners and industrial landscapes by an artist devoted to realism who rarely exhibited in his lifetime. Michael Parkin Fine Art, 11 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (01-235 8144), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until June 16.

★ **KEITH MILLOW:** One hundred drawings 1968-88. Nigel Greenwood Gallery, 4 Burlington Street, London W1 (01-434 5783), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm, free, until June 24.

★ **FRANCIA TURNER:** Pastels and drawings entitled *Train Landscapes* through British landscapes. National Tourist Board, Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-356 1880), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until June 16.

★ **STEVE WONDER:** Still a great and powerful performer. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 7.30pm, £15-£17.50, for two nights.

## ROCK

★ **DEACON BLUE:** Precocious, socially aware Scottish rock stars with a No.1 album under their collective belt. Hammerstein Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081) 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50, for three nights.

★ **DANNI SMITH:** The *Route 66* musical number. The singer-songwriter from Austin, Texas has a country style influenced by such deep Texas blues as Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt. Support is Tennessee singer-songwriter Dean Dillon, who has written hits for George Strait.

★ **HALL MEAN PULLEY:** 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (01-788 2187) 8.30pm, £5.

★ **THE PEARL FISHERS:** Philip Rowse's new production for the Royal Opera House, now on tour with Anne Dawson and Adrian Martin. New Theatre, Hull (0482 226855), 7.15-9.45pm, £5.50-£18.

★ **DON GIOVANNI:** Scottish Opera's production, now touring. The Royal Opera House, Edinburgh (0804 24811), 7.30pm, schools mat 2pm, £4-£17.50.

★ **LA FILLE MAI GARDEE:** Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Ashton's romantic comedy. The Big Top, Central Milton Keynes (0204 300 300), 8.30-8.45pm, mat 2-4.15pm, £3-£12.

★ **NIGHT TRAIN:** Live Marcus, American choreographer based in the Netherlands, presents the dark side of romantic dreams. ICA Theatre, London SW1 (01-430 3647), 8pm, £5.

## DANCE

★ **THE VORTEX:** Directed by Peter Schaffer. The Royal Opera House, Edinburgh (0804 24811), 7.30pm, schools mat 2pm, £4-£17.50.

★ **LETICE AND LOVAGE:** Directed by Peter Schaffer. The Royal Opera House, Edinburgh (0804 24811), 7.30pm, schools mat 2pm, £4-£17.50.

★ **THE ROYAL BACCARAT SCANDAL:** Directed by Peter Schaffer. The Royal Opera House, Edinburgh (0804 24811), 7.30pm, schools mat 2pm, £4-£17.50.

★ **THE WOMAN IN BLACK:** Directed by Peter Schaffer. The Royal Opera House, Edinburgh (0804 24811), 7.30pm, schools mat 2pm, £4-£17.50.

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## WALKS

★ **SWEENEY TODD'S HISTORIC FLEET STREET:** Meet Blackbirds tube, 2pm, £3.50 (01-441 8906).

★ **ROCK ROUTES OF THE SWINGING SIXTIES:** Meet Green Park tube, 11am, £3.50 (01-937 4281).

★ **A JOURNEY THROUGH DICKENS'S LONDON:** Meet Holborn tube, 2.30pm, £3.50 (01-937 4281).

★ **HIDDEN INTERIORS OF OLD LONDON:** Meet Temple tube, 11am, £3.50 (01-937 4281).

★ **THE STORY OF LONDON:** Meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £3.50 (01-504 9159).

★ **OTHER EVENTS**

★ **THE ART OF MAP MAKING:** First day of an exhibition from The Netherlands featuring the work of Dutch cartographers.

★ **ADMIRAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM:** Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 612251). Until July 23, Wed-Sun 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, Child £1.50.

★ **CORPUS CHRISTI CARPET OF FLOWERS AND FRUITAL FESTIVAL:** Annual event at which a beautiful carpet of flowers is laid in the Catholic cathedral in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. The feast of Corpus Christi is always kept on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Procession tomorrow. Ammanford Cathedral, LC 100N Road, Ammanford, West Sussex. Today 9.30am-9pm. Tomorrow 10.45am-5.30pm.

★ **DEEVA JEWELLERY:** Suing exhibition of tribal jewellery collection by Gurant, Tamil Nadu, Central and South India, Rajasthan, and the Bedouin tribes of Sinai. Smith's Gallery, 50 Euston Road, Covent Garden, London WC2. Today until Sat, 11am-7pm.

★ **MEET THE HEAD GARDENERS:** Guided tour and answer tour around the beautiful gardens with Sue Tasker. Meet Cafe Terrace, Lake District National Park and Victoria Centre, Ambleside, Windermere, Cumbria (05462 6501). 2-3pm. Admission to centre adult £1.40, Child 5-14 70p, under-fives free.

★ **SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET:** Summer tour includes world premieres of ballets by Vincent Nardone (to music by Poulenc and William Walton), Britten's *Sea Interludes*, *Also The Snow Queen*, *Choreo Lancers*, *Phaeacian*, *Queen*, and Ashton's *The Two Pigeons*. June 15-24. Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021 622 7486).

★ **SNO POPS:** Scottish National Orchestra give six concerts in Edinburgh, with appearances by Malcolm Sargent, Steven Isserlis, Tasmin Little, Gwyneth Jones, June 3-10. Usher Hall, Box Office, Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 228 1155).

★ **FAIRFIELD HALL:** Booking for Gerry and the Pacemakers (June 1), Saddy and Cockney Rebels (June 27), The Shadows (June 28), Jacques Loussier (July 7), and Barbara Dickson (Aug 4).

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★ **POWERPLAYS:** Contemporary Canadian photography at work including Lynne Cohen, Pierre Guilmond, Cheryl Soukoreff. Photography, Charles St, Cardiff (0222 341 687). Ends Sat.

★ **THEATRE:** Jeremy Kingston; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rocks: David Sinclair; Jazz: John Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Walks and Talks: Greta Carls; Other Events: Judy Froshauer; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

★ **ART GALLERIES**

★ **GALLERY LINDARD:** 30, Pall Mall, London SW1. 7.30-10.30pm.

★ **THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES:** "The best Holmes and Watson I have ever seen." A new production by the British Library. Directed by Peter Jackson. Mon-Fri 8.00pm, Sat 8.30 & 5.30pm.

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

## LONDON

★ **BLOOD BROTHERS:** Willy Russell's sentimental musical: separated twins destroyed by the English class system; Angela Richards as their mother. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-567 1115). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.45pm, matrs Thurs 3-5pm, and Sat 4-7pm, £5.30-£18.50. (D)

★ **DOWN EVERY STREET:** Vince Founal's latest play assembles memories of East End days of yore. Mnam Karan in the cast of five women. Theatre Royal, Garry Raffes Square, E15 (01-534 0310). Tube: Stratford. Mon-Sat 8-10.20pm, £2.50-£7.

★ **HENCEFORWARD:** Martin Jarvis and Joanna van Gyseghem in excellent Ayckbourn set in a future London. Ayckbourn Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9988). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 8.30-10.30pm. Matrs Wed 2.30-4.30pm and Sat 3-5.20pm. £7.50-£21.50.

★ **THE MARSHALLING YARD:** Ted Morre's first stage play: set in a man's world where confusion must be shared into order or chaos results; with Sheila Reid, Tom Mannion. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3368). Tube: Shepherd's Bush. Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8-10pm. Opens Thurs 7-9pm. Then Tues-Sun 8-10pm, £8.

★ **M. BUTTERFLY:** Anthony Hopkins in John Dexter's production of the Broadway hit, based on the true-life love-affair between a French diplomat and a Chinese opera star. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-373 8991). Tube: Holborn. Mon-Sat 8-10.20pm, matrs Wed and Sat 3-5.20pm, £7.50-£16.50.

★ **THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES:** Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in a new production by Jeremy Paul, directed by Patrick Garand. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-567 1115). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 5.30pm and 8.30pm, mat Wed 3pm, £5.50-£18.50.

★ **TANGO VASCOVIANO:** See caption. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Five performances only. Tonight 7.40pm, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri and Sat 7.30-9.10pm, mat Sat 3-5.20pm, £10-£16.

★ **THE TALL GUY (15):** Jeff Goldblum stars as an American actor in London, weighed down by his fever and feelings of inferiority (50 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-470 2636). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 8.45, 9.15. Cannon Haymarket (01-830 1827). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.35. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-430 0310). Progs 1.05, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **WORKING GIRL (15):** Attractive, light-hearted social satire from director Mike Nichols, with Melanie Lynskey as the American who comes up the Wall Street ladder (116 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 1.35, 4.05, 7.00, 9.30. Cannon Park Street (01-430 0631). Progs 2.00, 4.35, 7.15. Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 3561). Progs 1.00, 3.25, 5.50, 8.20, 11.15. Cannon Kensington (01-441 6644). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

## CONCERTS

## LUNCHTIME

★ **GAS MUSIC:** Sponsored by British Gas, the Guildhall Chamber Orchestra is conducted by Christopher Adey in Prokofiev's *Sinfonietta* and Chopin's Piano Concerto No 2 with Lucy Parham (British Gas Scholar) as soloist. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). 12pm, free.

★ **VERDIANCK VISITATION:** The Lucanadi Ensemble performs Verdi's *Mein Herz ist bereit* Motet, quickly following it with a Purcell Trio Sonata. Purcell Theatre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). 12pm, free.

★ **CHAPLIN'S CHOICE:** Mozart's *Antony & Cleopatra*, Debussy's *Clair de Lune*, and Chopin's *No 2 and Messiaen's* *Premiere Communion* de la Vierge are all heard from John Chaplin (piano). St Martin-in-the-Fields, Ludgate Hill, London EC4 (01-48 6054). 1.15-1.45pm, free.

★ **BAROQUE DOUBLES:** Under Philip Ledger, the ECHO performs J. Bach's *Sinfonia for Double Orchestra*, J. S. Bach's *Concerto for 2 Violins* (Maciej Rakowski and Mary Eadie), Vivaldi's *Concerto for 2 Cellos* (Oleg Hegedus and Dietrich Betteghe), Vivaldi's *Concerto for 2 Bassoons* (Robin O'Neill and Ian Gurney) and Handel's *Concerto a Due Cori No 2*. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). 7.45-9.30pm, £4-£12.

★ **MOZART JOKE:** Besides Mozart's *A Musical Joke* the London Mozart Players offer Strauss's *Duet-Concerto* (Angela Masbury, clarinet, and Graham Shuman, bassoon), Haydn's *Symphony No 61* and J. C. Bach's *Sinfonia Concertante* in C (Philip Davies, flute, Celia Nicklin, oboe, Luigi de Filippi, violin, and Sebastian van Coillie, cello). John Giver conduces. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800). 7.45pm, £4.50-£12.

★ **FOUR AND FIVE:** The McCapra Quartet plays the *Quintet for Piano No 1* and is joined by Marina Horak for for

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## OUT OF TOWN

★ **BAGNOR:** Just So: The Elephant's Child, full of insatiable curiosity, sets off to discover the world in a new musical version of Kipling's tale, directed by Julia McKenzie. Watermill Theatre, Bagnor, nr Newbury (0365 46044). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £3.50-£9.

★ **LIVERPOOL:** ★ **Slaughterhouse 5:** Kurt Vonnegut's sci-fi novel, part Orson Welles' story, part little green men, staged with a Baroque Opera. Everyman Theatre, Hope Street (051 709 4778). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, £4.50-£11.

★ **NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET IV: THE DREAMWALKER:** Directed by Wes Craven. Another instalment of the morbid tales of Freddy and the sleeping teenagers (93 min). Cannon Oxford Street (01-436 0310). Progs 1.20, 3.35, 6.00, 8.30. Cannon Marble Arch (01-723 2011). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.15, 8.45. Cannon West End (01-439 0791). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45.

★ **RAIN MAN (15):** Compelling drama, winner of four top Oscars, with Dustin Hoffman as an autistic man almost swindled out of a three million dollar inheritance by his callow young brother, Tom Cruise (134 min). Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-430 0310). Progs 2.10, 5.05, 8.00. Cannon Fulham Road (01-470 2636). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.00, 8.30.

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WEDNESDAY MAY 24 1989

25

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.5680 (-0.0120)  
W German mark  
3.1485 (-0.0234)  
Exchange Index  
93.3 (-0.4)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1787.4 (-16.2)  
FT-SE 100  
2151.5 (-17.4)  
USM (Datastream)  
168.51 (-0.72)

### STOCK WATCH

We would like to apologize to readers for the lack of up-to-date Unit Trust prices in today's edition. This is the result of a computer failure at Exel, our prices supplier. Up-to-the minute share and unit trust prices are available on the Times Stockwatch service, available in conjunction with CityCall. For readers of the Times deprived of their latest unit trust prices, Stockwatch has set up a telephone helpline which will provide code numbers for any prices required. Readers with a multi-frequency telephone can then dial directly into the Stockwatch system on the 0898 141 141 number. Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc VAT. The Stockwatch Helpline: 01 923 1124.

### Apricot falls

Apricot Computers reports annual pre-tax profits of £6.01 million (£8.21 million). A final dividend of 1.25p maintains the total at 2p.

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### STOCK MARKETS

New York:	2498.27 (-13.75)
Dow Jones	
Nikkei Average	33816.91 (-251.25)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3067.65 (+261.08)
CBS Tendency	176.6 (-1.3)
Sydney: AO	1583.7 (+3.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	1361.90 (+8.70)
Brexit:	
General	6061.78 (-20.14)
Paris: CAC	485.9 (+1.4)
Zurich: S&K Gen	557.1 (-3.5)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1106.73 (-8.29)
FT-300	1224.65 (-8.55)
FT-100	1024.12 (-1.2)
FT-100 Index	37.33 (+0.03)
FT-100 Vol	96.12 (-0.30)
Recent Issues	Page 26
Closing prices	Page 26

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBES:	
Cendover	307 1/2 (+20)
Conder Group	840p (+30)
J. Marzani	340p (+11)
Taco	287 1/2 (+10)
SA Breweries	371 1/2 (+30)
Entertainment Units	986 1/2 (+30)
Intel Thomson	912 1/2 (+35)
Barr & W A	347 1/2 (+15)
Boosey & Hawkes	470p (+15)

### FALLS

Ultramar	303 1/2 (-21 1/2)
Racal Telecom	437 1/2 (-21)
RMC Group	772 1/2 (-15)
Redland	888 1/2 (-10)
Rank Org	973 1/2 (-10)
Tarmac	341p (-11)
Grand Met	543p (-10)
Barclays	467 1/2 (-10)
Blue Circle	585p (-11)
Anglia Soc	270p (-7 1/2)
Body Shop	577 1/2 (-10)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	13%
3-month interbank:	13 1/4-13 1/2%
3-month interbank:	12 1/4-12 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate:	11 1/4%
Federal Funds 91 days:	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bill:	8.30-8.25%
30-year bonds:	102 1/2-102 3/4

### CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	\$1.5680
£/DM	3.1485
£/FF	166.35
£/Yen	161.00
£/Sfr	1.4850
£/Lira	1.3600
£/Pound	1.0000

### GOLD

London:	New York:
AM \$363.40 pm \$364.50	
close \$364.25-364.75	
(221.00-221.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$364.10-364.60	

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July) pm \$17.10bbl (\$16.77)  
Dated latest trading price

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.25
Belgium Fr	23.25	21.50
Canada \$	60.00	1.85
Denmark Kr	12.77	12.14
Finland Mk	7.28	6.51
France Fr	11.11	10.51
Germany DM	2.25	2.15
Greece Dr	282.50	282.50
Hong Kong \$	12.84	12.84
Italy Lit	1.255	1.185
Japan Yen	235	225
Netherlands Gld	3.72	3.51
Norway Kr	11.57	11.25
Portugal Esc	204.25	182.25
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	2.25	2.15
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	1.3600	1.3600
USA \$	1.5680	1.5680
Yugoslavia Dnr	100.00	100.00

# Falling pound fuels pressure for rates rise

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Sterling came under heavy pressure in the foreign exchange markets as speculators switched from pushing the dollar. The pound weakened against all currencies, increasing pressure for a rise in base rates.

By close of trading in London the pound was 2.34 pence lower against the mark at DM3.1485 and 1.2 cents lower against the dollar at \$1.5680. The effective exchange rate fell 0.4 to 93.3 which compares with an average rate during April more than two points higher at 95.5.

The Bank of England intervened in support of the pound, but no concerted intervention was needed to hold down the dollar. The US currency closed down 32 points against the mark at DM2.0043, after dipping below DM2, and 30 points lower against the yen at ¥141.45.

The fall in the pound was accelerated by the Prime Minister's reply to a question in the Commons which was taken to indicate that interest rates would not be increased. Mrs Thatcher said: "The steps the Chancellor has taken will deal with the problem and get inflation on a downward course again."

However, the Treasury denied that the remark had any significance for interest rates either way and said the Prime Minister was re-stating a well-known Government position.

Traders said the Chancellor's commitment to maintaining the foreign exchange value of sterling would be tested if the fall continued much further. DM3.15 had been seen as a significant benchmark.

Continuing concern about inflation after the poor retail price index figures on Friday and nervousness about tomorrow's trade figures contributed to sterling's weakness. The market is expecting a deterioration in the current account deficit last month from £1.2 billion to about £1.6 billion. This includes some allowance for increased buying of imports in advance of a possible dock strike.

Mr Stephen Bell, of Morgan Grenfell, said: "It was always likely that when the dollar was capped sterling would come under pressure. If we get bad trade figures I think we will get a base rate rise."

Indications from the building societies that they would not necessarily follow a rise in base rates with an increase in the mortgage rate were seen as making a base rate rise more likely. In these circumstances an increase in base rates would support sterling but would not hit the housing market further or add to the retail price index.

Money market rates rose, with three-month interbank money up 1/4 at 13 1/4 per cent.

Industrial investment has continued to grow rapidly in the first quarter of the year, confirming that the squeeze on the economy from high interest rates has mainly affected consumers.

Investment in the manufacturing, construction, distribution and financial industries rose 3 per cent over the previous quarter and 16 per cent compared with a year earlier to £9.16 billion at 1985 prices seasonally adjusted. Manufacturing investment alone was up nearly 5 per cent on the quarter and 8 1/2 per cent on the year at £2.98 billion, including leased assets.

Changes in stock levels in the first quarter were seen by the Treasury as consistent with a slowdown in the economy. Manufacturers' stocks rose by £205 million at 1985 prices seasonally adjusted, though the stock/output ratio fell from 82.9 at end-December to 82.7 at end-March.

Retailers and wholesalers reduced their stocks by £267 million and £46 million respectively, perhaps reflecting promotional efforts at stock clearing.

## British Airways takes off to £268m



First class was the verdict of Lord King, chairman of British Airways, on 1988-1989 profits £40 million higher at £268 million. The figures include the first full-year contribution from British Caledonian, purchased 18 months ago. Lord King, pictured (right) yesterday with Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive, announced revenues up more than £500 million to £4.25 billion, while earnings per share climbed from 21p to 24.3p. After a final dividend of 5.25p, the total payout rose 12.3 per cent to 7.75p.

## Brierley sells stake in Ultramar

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur who has been seen as a potential bidder for Ultramar, the independent oil company, has sold his 14.45 per cent stake.

He placed his 51.2 million shares through Smith New Court yesterday at 305p a share, giving him an estimated profit of more than £50 million after deducting his costs of holding the shares for four years.

Ultramar yesterday described Sir Ron as a "good and loyal investor in the company" and said it was pleased to have been able to receive a good return on his investment, which indicated the strengths of the company.

Sir Ron built up his stake by paying between 120p and 160p a share and has been consistently seen as a potential bidder.

However, Ultramar has restructured its operations in the past year and become particularly strong in the North American refining and marketing businesses.

Sir Ron is believed to have been advised that now would be the best time to take a profit on his investment.

It is understood there was initially some difficulty in placing the shares in the City and the price realized may have been less than Sir Ron had hoped for, although eventually 60 institutions took shares in the company. Ultramar's price dropped from 325p to 303.5p on the news.

Individual investors are being offered a chance to buy units in the BP Prudhoe Bay Royalty Trust which will raise almost \$550 million (£348 million) for BP.

Already, 13.36 million units in the trust have been placed privately by BP's advisers, bringing in \$334 million, and another 8 million are being publicly offered at \$26 per unit.

The trust will take 16.42 per cent of the first 90,000 barrels of oil produced each day from the Prudhoe Bay field in North Alaska, with investors receiving quarterly royalty payments determined on the basis of the average schedule of West Texas Intermediate crude oil prices, less a charge for costs made by BP to the trust.

The scheme essentially allows investors to take a proportion of the daily output from one of the world's largest oilfields.

At the same time, by selling oil in advance, it unlocks cash which BP will be able to use to reduce its debt.

## Fed split developing on whether to ease policy

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Federal Reserve Board has an agreed strategy to ease its tight credit policies to stop the dollar's surge, but new economic data released yesterday left the central bank with little scope to lower short-term interest rates, officials said.

US orders for durable goods rose by a surprisingly strong 2.9 per cent in April, revealing an economy which continued to grow despite the Fed's tight grip on credit. Analysts had expected a rise of no more than 0.7 per cent.

The Fed governors remain committed to the containment of inflation as their top policy goal. Conflicting signals over the underlying strength of the US economy have caused them to take a cautious line, and to resist pressures to reduce interest rates to halt the dollar's rise by lowering the influential discount rate from 7 per cent.

But since a meeting last week of the Fed's top policy group, the Open Market Committee, a disagreement appears to be developing between officials who favour an easing of credit and those who fear that this will undermine the central bank's inflation-fighting credentials.

At the meeting, it was decided to make no changes in US credit policy until there was a clearer picture of the real strength of the economy, officials said. But the Fed governors gave Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman, the discretion to lower interest rates if conditions warranted such a move.

Over the past week, some Fed officials have pressed for lower interest rates. Members of the Bush Administration have also urged lower interest rates, to ease the upward pressure on the dollar.

Officials said that in lieu of a co-ordinated interest rate rise abroad, this is the only action that will work in curbing the dollar, which has resisted the intervention attempts of central banks. Treasury officials fear that gains made in reducing the US trade deficit will be sharply reversed, thus igniting another strong surge of protectionism.

## Societies set to lend £4.3bn

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

Building society lending is still continuing to rise slowly with societies promising to lend £4.336 billion to new borrowers in April.

This is £82 million more than the previous month, but still 10 per cent below the lending levels of a year ago.

Mr Mark Boleat, director general of the Building Societies Association, said that the gradual recovery since the start of the year owed more to building societies gaining market share at the expense of the banks than an overall increase in mortgage demand.

Over the new year the number of bank mortgage commitments fell sharply from 74,000 to 45,000 while building society approvals fell from 212,000 to 210,000.

"Lending in April suggests that confidence in the housing market remains weak in the light of the current high level of interest rates," Mr Boleat said.

In spite of the gradual rise over the year in commitments, the value of actual new mortgages arranged by building societies fell from £3.526 billion in March to £3.455 billion in April.

Britain's largest building society, the Halifax said that further loans to existing buyers were well above normal levels. Normally further loans reach a peak as the do-it-yourself season gets underway. They normally run at about 10 per cent of new mortgage loans, but this year they are approaching 16 per cent.

The average life of a mortgage fell last year from about seven years to between five and six, but is beginning to rise again.

The Halifax said uncertainty over interest rates was damaging the market. But even if they did go to 14 per cent, the Halifax would not respond with a rise in the mortgage rate.

## Coloroll falls on profit forecasts

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Coloroll, the home furnishings group headed by Mr John Ashcroft, fell 9p, to 157p, yesterday, as it dampened down some market expectations for the current year.

The company said that it appeared to be on course for pre-tax profits of around £65 million, against some forecasts of £70 million. Some analysts believe that the company could be hard-pressed to make £65 million, and the outcome could be lower if interest rates rise again.

Coloroll was reporting more than doubled pre-tax profits for the year to March of £55.5 million, reflecting a 10-month contribution from the John Crowther business, which owns the well-known Kosset and Crossley carpet brands. Sales rose 119 per cent to £565 million and earnings per share improved by 11 per cent to 23p. Shareholders collect a total dividend payout of 7.60p, compared with 6.60p.

Mr Ashcroft admitted that some parts of the carpets business had been experiencing difficult trading in recent weeks. But the company said that it had remained relatively unaffected by the downturn in consumer expenditure.

Disposals from John Crowther would wipe out the group's hefty borrowings during the course of this year, and effectively mean that Coloroll would have picked up the two carpet brands for nothing.

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## City warned of huge VAT bills

By Rodney Hobson

The City of London will pay value added tax on virtually every property and piece of land in the Square Mile under a clause in the Finance Act, the financial community was warned last night.

Barclays Bank has written to Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary, to protest over a £45 million VAT bill that will be slapped on the redevelopment of its headquarters in Lombard Street.

Modified VAT proposals, tabled under the Finance Bill by Mr Lilley on May 11, impose VAT on the current market value of a redevelopment irrespective of how long the owner has occupied it.

Barclays is due to begin rebuilding its headquarters next year for occupation in 1993. As soon as it occupies the building it will be hit for VAT on the open market value of the new building.

Because banks are among partially exempt companies for VAT, they will be able to recover only a fraction of the VAT.

Although the Barclays redevelopment will cost only £150 million, the new building including the land it stands on will be worth about twice that. With VAT at 15 per cent, Barclay's stands to see its £150 million bill increased to £190 million.

The extension of VAT to non-domestic properties was forced on Britain by a decision of the European Court.

## Government denies privatization 'give-away'

## No £5.5bn debt write-off for water

By Sheila Gunn  
Political Staff

The Government denied last night that it would virtually give away Britain's water industry under privatization, making clear it is not prepared to write off all of the £5.5 billion of debts.

However, it has taken unprecedented action to prevent asset-stripping of land owned by the 10 water authorities after the £5 billion to £7 billion sale of the industry.

The debts owed by the water authorities to the Government's National Loans Fund will be "re-structured" into debt securities and equity so that they are spread evenly over the country. However, the water PIs will still "owe" the money to the Government.

The technical change is necessary because some authorities, including the North West Water Authority, have large debts while others, such as Thames, have none. Before flotation - pencilled in for November - the Government will announce that it is writing off a proportion of the debt.

However, the Department of the Environment made clear yesterday that no final decision on the amount has been made. Lord Cuthbert, an Environment Minister, announced that there will be "no question of asset-stripping at the expense of the consumer."

Amendments will be tabled to the Water Bill to guarantee that consumers benefit from the sales of surplus land by the water PIs.

The latest moves underline the Government's confusion on how to help the water industry meet the estimated £10 billion costs of raising water and sewerage works to European Community standards while not deterring investors. It emerged last night that ministers have dropped the idea of a dowry system to finance improvement works, and will rely on other ways to help the water PIs.


Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, is also taking a hard line against the Lords amendment imposing a 1993 deadline for bringing drinking water quality up to EC standards.

He is understood to be set on reversing the defeat when the Water Bill returns to the Commons at the end of June in spite of widespread feeling on the Tory backbenches that such a deadline is reasonable.

A debt write-off for the water authorities will effectively mean a Government subsidy to about 75 per cent of the country's water consumers, but will discriminate against the rest who are supplied by statutory water companies.

The water companies are private sector institutions already and, unlike the privatization-bound water authorities, are not due to receive debt relief.

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# Chloride poised for profits fall to 'not less than £12m'

By Martin Waller

Long-suffering shareholders in Chloride Group, the battery maker, took another knock yesterday when the shares slid 6p to 37p on news that pre-tax profits in the year to end-March would be "not less than £12 million," down from £18.2 million last time.

The company was giving details of the sale of its European motive power operations for £55 million, announced last month, which is to be voted on by shareholders on June 9. It has followed this with the sale of Exide Europe, its loss-making European automotive battery business.

The first sale was accompanied by a warning of lower profits in the latest financial year and a suggestion that the final dividend might be cut. In the event the payment will be 0.55p, against 1.5p last time, almost halving the year's total to 1.1p, from 2p. The company also said the high tax rate in countries where it still operates in the battery business, including India and parts of Africa, would push the tax charge "significantly higher" than the average rate of corporation tax in Britain.

The group is taking an



Cold comfort from a mild winter: Ray Horrocks, chairman extraordinary gain into the 1988-89 figures from the two disposals. Profits on the sale of the motive power operations, however, will be offset by a book loss from the Exide disposal, which brought in

former BL executive, since last November. He became chief executive last month with the departure of Mr Kent Price.

The company has blamed the mild European winter for a severe reduction in demand for car batteries which has affected full-year figures.

It is giving no indication of the eventual size of the extraordinary gain, but analysts estimate it at perhaps £8 million-£9 million.

The disposals will cut borrowings from almost £90 million to £20 million.

Mr Sandy Morris, analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, the company's broker, had already reduced his estimate for 1988-89 pre-tax profits to £13 million. He said: "I thought before that the bad news had emerged and I took a fairly cautious line in case it hadn't, but this is worse than I had thought."

"As far as I can see they have cleared the decks. But this is their last chance if they are to have any credibility."

He is now looking for £17 million pre-tax in the current financial year, a reduction of £3 million on his initial forecast, but is keen on prospects for the remaining business.

## YTV at £10m on cuts in staff

By Wolfgang Münch

Reductions in staffing and overtime levels have led to a larger-than-expected rise in profits at Yorkshire Television Holdings.

Pre-tax profits rose from £7.8 million to £10.4 million in the six months to end-March, against expectations of about £9 million. Earnings per share rose from 14p to 18.3p. The interim dividend has been raised from 3p to 3.3p. The shares rose 6p to 31p on the news.

Mr Clive Leach, the managing director, said he achieved his target of reducing the workforce from 1,643 a year ago to a little more than 1,400, mainly through voluntary redundancies and early retirement. In addition, the overtime ratio has been cut 52 per cent from 40.9 per cent to 19.4 per cent.

However, in terms of advertising revenue Yorkshire TV continues to underperform the rest of the industry. Its total market share in ITV advertising fell from 9.1 per cent to 8.7 per cent, as advertising revenue rose by 10.8 per cent to £71.8 million, against an average network growth rate of 15.4 per cent.

Mr Leach predicted that the gap, which reflects stronger advertising growth in the south of England, is unlikely to widen in the current year.

He claimed that, as a result of the cost reductions and a continued emphasis on high quality programming, Yorkshire TV stands a good chance of retaining its franchise licence in 1991.

The company is currently engaged in two large productions, *Till We Meet Again*, a five-hour mini-series, and *Yellow Thread Street*, a 31-hour series.

But with the costs of these productions coming into the current-year accounts and the revenue into the next, the final-year figures are expected to be lower than the interim results would suggest.

## Ossory Estates to raise £49m

Ossory Estates, the property group, is raising £49 million from a banking syndicate through a seldom-used preference share issue in which, while the banks advance the money by means of a loan facility, it reaches the company through the issue of preference shares by an offshore company linked to Ossory. The preference shares carry a dividend of 6.5 per cent.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

# Isosceles nowhere with Gateway waiting game

Everyone is on the edge of their seats waiting for the next move from Isosceles in its, so far, limp campaign to take over Gateway, the food retailing group which has had almost as many suitors as it has had corporate names.

On offer so far is 195p cash, a figure which is barely credible as an opening shot, let alone a reasonable offer. The Isosceles tactic seems to be to wait for the market to fall far enough to make 195p an attractive offer, rather than move too fast to improve the terms.

In takeovers timing is all, and once again a major bid for a company on the back foot has been timed wrongly. A bid which should have been a pushover has been allowed to develop into a fight. The timing has allowed Gateway to produce a profits improvement for the year to end-April, and although the Isosceles operation has done its best to rubbish the figures, the numbers will stick sufficiently to give the appearance of a turn-up to Gateway's fortunes.

Whether that turn-up is based on genuine trading improvements or a complex system of mirrors will become clear only with the next set of trading

results, by which time Isosceles will either have gone back to designing triangles or be the proud owner of half a supermarket chain. The other half, of course, will have been sold to Asda, assuming Asda itself is out on the wrong end of hostile action.

The other aspect of timing is the positioning of the whole food retailing sector. The sector underperformed all last year and into the first quarter of 1989, but has decisively bottomed out and is attracting investment interest. Gateway may not be on everybody's "buy" list, against Tesco and Argill, where the managements are on better terms with the City than Gateway's, but at least it is a sound asset play. That is why companies in the arbitrage business, such as the US fund management group Mutual Shares, feel comfortable buying Gateway up to and even beyond the price of the Isosceles bid.

There is a price for Gateway, and this is recognized not only by Alec Monk, Gateway chairman, but also by Associated British Foods, its major shareholder. But it is not 195p, and other shareholders should sit back and wait for further action.

## BA flying high with B-Cal

Those who said that British Airways paid too much at the time of its B-Cal purchase were hard to find after the 1988-89 results emerged yesterday. B-Cal's performance is well high impossible to isolate after its complete integration into BA, but it clearly had a beneficial impact overall.

The troubled B-Cal was a big factor in BA's extra staff costs of £125 million and a £91 million increase in depreciation charges. Even though Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall inherited some problems along with their acquisition, the 42 per cent rise in operating surplus and 17.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits must be judged a highly satisfactory performance.

In fact, a close scrutiny of the results suggest that BA could easily have turned in even better figures had the occasion demanded. The group absorbed a number of additional costs throughout its operations. In total they were hefty.

Start-up costs for the Air Miles promotion, Galileo, the joint reservation systems and losses on the Redwing Holidays venture alone accounted for £28 million. BA might chop this figure by £20 million or so this year. Delays due to air traffic control problems beyond the airline's influence accounted for a further £15 million and £24 million of the higher depreciation charges arose from the fleet revaluation last year.

It was not until the airline integrated its scheduled services that the benefits of B-Cal began to emerge fully. Traffic growth was flat as a Heathrow runway for the first six months of the year but

grew strongly by 5.5 per cent and 6.9 per cent to the two final quarters. The new year started spectacularly with a 10 per cent April rise in traffic and the momentum has continued through into May. So the full benefits of the acquisition should make their full impact in the current year though they will be held back to some extent by the late delivery of Boeing 747-400 aircraft. This is a mixed blessing since it means that BA should be able to boost the yield from each of its passengers if seats on its key routes are in short supply.

BA looks set fair for another solid advance since yields across the route network are edging upwards and unit costs, already declining, will receive a further downward push this year. Sir Colio has started with a programme to reduce staff costs by a further 10 per cent.

The City reaction, an 8p fall in the shares to 200p, was cautious.

BA is in the throes of a massive re-equipment phase and will obviously have to fork out more in sterling terms. But the market's simplistic response yesterday ignores the airline's sizeable dollar revenues. So far, the group is relaxed and says the dollar's latest moves are in total mildly beneficial.

BA's bottom line is the difference between two large numbers and is potentially volatile. But profits this year should be between £310 million and £340 million this year putting the shares on a p/e of less than 7. There are few hostages to fortune in such a cautious rating.

## GrandMet in more US disposals

Grand Metropolitan is selling two more businesses it acquired as part of the takeover of Pillsbury, the US food group. They are Van de Kamp's, a producer of frozen fish products which had a turnover of \$135 million (£85 million) last year, and Bumble Bee Seafoods which had sales of \$283 million.

At the same time, International Distillers and Vintners, the wines and spirits arm of GrandMet, is selling its Calona Wines business in Canada for Can\$16.9 million (£8.9 million).

At meetings with a number of British institutions, Mr Allen Sheppard, the chairman of GrandMet, said the Pillsbury deal would "prove as positive as the Liggett and Heublein acquisitions."

## Property rise

Pre-tax profits at Shaftesbury, the property developer, climbed from £1.46 million to £2.75 million in the six months to end-March. Earnings rose from 6.26p to 9.25p. There is no interim dividend, as in the previous year. The shares fell 4p to 221p.

## Radio jump

Radio City (Sound of Merseyside) reports doubled pre-tax profits for the six months to end-March, at £623,000 against £308,000, and a resumed interim dividend on the USM-quoted shares of 3p. The group accompanied the figures with a cautious statement, warning that advertising revenues could be volatile.

## Alexanders up

Alexanders, the Scottish Ford motor dealer, showed a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £673,000 in the half-year to March despite a £700,000 fall in sales to £35 million. There is no interim dividend.

## Down and out in a good cause

One group of regular commuters not to be troubled by the London tube strike were two main board directors of Kingfisher - Nigel Whitaker and Archie Norman - and a dozen or so of their colleagues, who slept on the steps of Woolworth House, on Marylebone Road. The coincidence with the tube strike - "We were at our desks by 7.30am," says Whitaker - was purely by chance. For they were really doing their bit to help launch National Sleep Out Week, and raise funds through sponsorship for St Mungo Housing, which helps single homeless people. "I feel as if I didn't get any sleep at all, but I'm told I did sleep for about 1½ hours," says Whitaker. "It was a warm, dry night but nevertheless pretty painful." The £7,000 or so raised through sponsorship was topped up to around £10,000 after the event, as the fund managers behind Kingfisher's institutional shareholders chipped in when they arrived at the company's corporate hospitality tent at the Chelsea Flower Show. The Kingfisher directors were given additional cause for celebration yesterday when B&Q, its DIY subsidiary, won a gold medal and the coveted "Best Garden of the Show" award.

## Bonus time

Forget what you hear, times cannot really be that tough at the top. I am told that Cazenove, the blue-blooded stockbroker, last week in-

## Tomorrows sells hotel for £11m

By Neil Bennett

Tomorrows Leisure, the Third Market snooker club and golf course operator, saw its net asset value soar 146 per cent to \$2.9p yesterday when it sold its only hotel to Queens Moat Houses for £11 million.

After the deal, the company will have more than £7 million in cash which it plans to use for leisure developments.

It is making a profit of more than £8 million on the George Washington Hotel in Washington, Tyne and Wear, which it bought and refurbished in 1986. The hotel made £634,000 on sales of £1.9

million in the year to March, making it one of the most profitable in the North-east.

News of the deal had leaked out, sending Tomorrows Leisure's shares from 46p two weeks ago to 80p before yesterday's announcement.

Mr John Sanderson, Tomorrows' chief executive, does well out of the deal. Subject to shareholders' approval he is being granted 1.14 million share options for his work, which can be exercised in 1991. They are worth more than £600,000 at the current share price.

## Grenfell in Soviet loan

Morgan Grenfell and a syndicate of international banks yesterday signed a \$330 million (£208 million) loan for a petrochemical plant in the Soviet Union - the biggest credit to date for a Soviet joint venture with Western companies.

It is the first loan to benefit from the Export Credits Guarantee Department's new pro-

ject financing scheme, and is being made to ASETCO, a Jersey company set up to promote and finance plant modernization in the Soviet petrochemicals industry.

The banking syndicate includes National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Narodny Bank of Moscow, and French, Finnish and Arab banks.

## Eagle Trust dealings halted

By Jeremy Andrews

Shares in Eagle Trust, the troubled Midlands conglomerate, were suspended at 174p yesterday after the announcement that Iroquois Brands, a quoted US company led by Mr Malcolm Stockdale, had taken a 15 per cent stake.

The suspension is pending the publication of Eagle's 1988 results and reorganization proposals. At the suspension price the company is capitalized at £136 million.

Eagle Trust said last month that it had received a possible

bid approach, reportedly from Bridgend Group, where Mr Neil List, the former stockbroker, is chairman. The purchase would have been a big mouthful for Bridgend and its shares rose 7p to 76p on news of Iroquois' intervention.

Eagle Trust was formed two years ago when Mitchell Somers, the heavy engineer, and Midland City Partnership, the builders merchant, were backed into the former Audiotronic Holdings. But its troubles began when a rights

issue to pay for the £48 million acquisition of Samuelson, the film facilities house, ended up in the hands of the underwriter, Swiss Bank Corporation, at the time of the stock market crash. Swiss Bank Corporation Stockbroking resigned as the company's broker this March.

Mr Stockdale is best known in Britain for his role at British Benzol Carbonising into which Powerscreen, the Ulster crushing machinery maker, was reversed.

## Focus on Newmont reshuffle

From Mike Graham New York

Now that the dust has settled on the Minoro/Consolidated Gold Fields court battle in New York, the focus is on the restructuring deal announced by Newmont Mining in its defence against Minoro.

Newmont said it was restructuring its debt and assets with Peabody Holdings, a subsidiary, in a deal that reshuffles more than \$1 billion (£630 million) of Newmont debt on to Peabody's books, and results in a \$500 million dividend payment being made from Peabody to Newmont.

Most analysts believed it was a manoeuvre that would make Newmont a less attractive takeover target.

But the fallout from the deal could lead to an unexpected boost to the sluggish gold bullion market. Mr Jeffrey Nichols, the managing director of American Precious Metals Advisers, said: "Basically, Newmont will try to increase its market value. Most analysts agree that a fair asset value is between \$55 and \$60 a share. But it is only at less than \$30. Reducing debt is one way of increasing value."

He said Newmont could buy back last year's gold loan. It borrowed 1 million ounces and sold it on the market when gold was at \$450 an ounce. Now gold has dropped to \$360.25 an ounce, it could buy back 1 million ounces from the market and make \$90 million.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Send in the clones

John Ashcroft, the chairman of the Coleroll home furnishings group, has always maintained a high profile with his forthright views on the home fashion industry. Now Ashcroft, aged 39, has commissioned a survey among retailers to find out what they think of his company and the way in which their attitudes towards it may have changed since it took over the Kossert and Crossley carpet brands.

formed its staff it would be paying them a bonus after all. They will be receiving slightly more than 100 per cent of their salaries. Refusing to confirm or deny this, the firm's joint senior partner, John Kemp-Welch, told me: "As you know, we try to keep a low profile here."

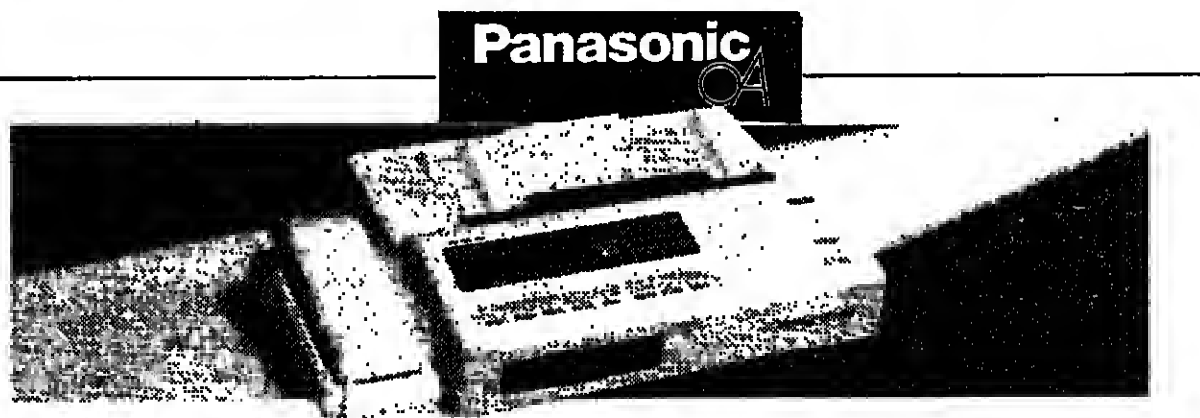
COLEROLL AWARDS



### Key bored

Try as they might, chief executives of companies just do not seem to be taking to their personal computers. A survey by *Fortune*, the US business magazine, of the computing habits of those at the head of the top 500 companies there found that only about a fifth of them ever came within arm's length of a personal computer. According to the survey, chief executive officers aged 50 or younger are twice as likely to use a computer as the rest of the 500. Last year 27 per cent of white-collar workers in the companies in question had computers on their desks. The figure for 1986 was 19 per cent. But for chief executive officers the figure declined slightly, from 21.7 per cent in 1986 to 21.4 per cent in 1988.

Carol Leonard



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## STOCK MARKET

# Shares fall again as fears on interest rates deepen

Share prices again fell sharply as pressure for another rise in interest rates grew more intense.

The pound was driven lower against the dollar and the mark despite heavy intervention by the Bank of England.

One of the main causes of its weakness was Mrs Thatcher's statement in the House of Commons that the Government's high interest rate policy would succeed in bringing down inflation.

Dealers took this as a signal that the Government was not planning to increase rates this week and they continued to sell sterling.

Mr Bill Martin, chief economist at Phillips & Drew, was not surprised at the pound's plight.

He said: "If you consider that we've got rampant pay inflation and a Government that lacks credibility on inflation, it seems obvious that people would be selling the pound."

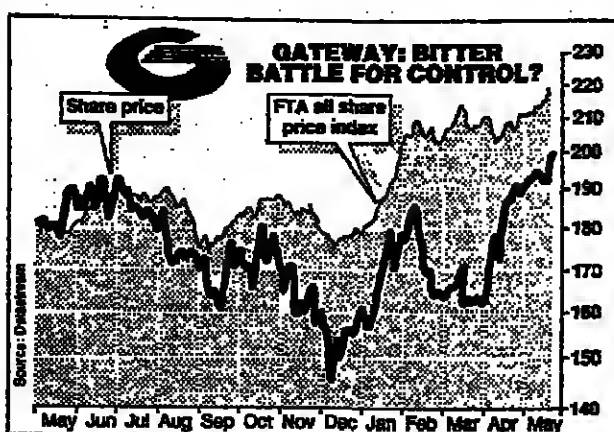
Mr Martin said that tomorrow could see a sterling crisis if the trade figures are worse than expected.

The FT-SE 100 index closed near its worst level with a fall of 17.4 points to 2,151.6 after a further bout of nervousness in late trading.

The FT index of 30 shares lost 16.2 points to 1,787.4 as turnover dipped to 557 million shares.

Government securities lost an early lead to close mixed, worried by the prospect of dearer money.

Dixons stood out against the trend with a rise of 9p to 148p after talk of a consortium bid was again revived. Almost 8.5 million shares were traded. This time brokers claim that Kingfisher has got together with Boots and Thorn EMI to launch a bid for the troubled stores group.



This year Mr Jack Dangoor, the computer designer and property developer, unexpectedly attempted to put together a consortium after paying visits to a number of merchant banks. Mr Jacob Rothschild was also nibbling at the shares but has now pulled out.

But, despite the poor profits performance and dull prospect, anyone wanting to bid is going to have to pay at least \$800 million.

It looks like Sir Ron Brierley's links with Ultramar have been severed. Yesterday he disposed of his entire 14.1 per cent holding, worth an estimated £120 million.

The 39.4 million shares were placed by Smith New Court, the broker, which has been an adviser of the stock, at 305p each. Dealers claimed that Smith had some difficulty in completing its task.

The move caught the market on the hop. Dealers had been hoping for some time that Sir Ron would make a full

Mr David Lang, a food analyst at Henderson Crosswaite, the broker, says the battle is now heating up and shows every sign of turning into a protracted, hard-fought and even bitter battle. Gateway's shares are now trading above the offer price, which never happened when Barker & Dobson made its abortive bid.

In his latest *Consumer Brief*, he tells clients not to expect a knockout blow and the downside on a failure of the bid could be at least 35p a share. He advises clients to adopt tactical selling of some of their holdings at between the 195p and 200p level but says there is "no need to rush the main decision."

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, fell 6p to 270p as bid hopes began to fade. It looks like Mr Michael Ashcroft's holding in the shares was purely a trading situation. His company, ADT, has decided to take a profit and has sold its holding.

Fisons rose 3p to 301p, helped by a bullish statement from Mr John Kerridge, the chairman, at the annual meeting. Dealers were pleased with the news that Tilde, the company's anti-asthma drug, is to be launched in Italy in July and that the American order book for scientific equipment is 40 per cent ahead of last year.

But clouds still hang over the share price. The launch of Tilde in America now looks like being delayed until the end of next year, while Fisons' established anti-asthma drug, Intal, sees its patent run out next year. The company hopes to continue to dominate the market for the next four years while patents still exist on Intal's inhaler equipment.

Michael Clark and Neil Bennett

## WORLD MARKETS

## HK prices rebound in heavy trading

Hong Kong (AP-Dow Jones) — Prices rebounded sharply in the most active trading since October, 1987. Brokers attributed the strong recovery to the belief that the student-led protest for democratic reforms in Peking will soon be settled peacefully. This belief was based on Hong Kong media reports of the latest developments and rumours in the Chinese capital.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index rose by 261.08 points to 3,067.63, after having plunged by 339 points on Monday. The broader All-Ordinaries index gained 156.29 points to

1,813.95, having fallen by 208.40 on Monday. Turnover was heavy, increasing to HK\$3.67 billion (£298.5 million) from HK\$2.99 billion.

All blue-chip issues made sharp gains. After opening higher, share prices jumped in the first 15 minutes, with the Hang Seng index rising 157.36 points. The market continued to rise until it gave back a small part of its early gains just before its close.

Brokers said the market's rebound in the morning came in response to reports that some Chinese troops had moved away from Peking. Mr

Li Peng, China's Premier, called troops into Peking on Friday and declared martial law on Saturday in an attempt to put down more than a month of student-led protests.

Late in the morning, the market was boosted by talk that Mr Li Peng will soon step down and Mr Zhao Ziyang, a relatively liberal reformer, will take up the responsibility to open talks with the students.

● Tokyo — The key Nikkei index of 225 selected issues closed 251.25 points down at 33,816.61, falling below the 34,000 level for the first time

in three trading days.

● Frankfurt — The DAX index climbed by 7.46 to 1,352.56. The market closed broadly higher in lively trading as it switched to a more positive view of the dollar's strength.

● Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index fell by 0.82 of a point to 1,291.92. Shares closed firm on a broad front.

● Sydney — The All Ordinaries index, the broadest market indicator, firmed to 1,582.7 from Monday's 1,577.6 after moving in a tight range.

## Law Report May 24 1989

## Mayor can use casting vote politically

Regina v Bradford City Council, Ex parte Corrie, Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Nourse [Judgment May 23]

A person presiding at a meeting of a local authority was free, if he thought it right to do so, to exercise his second or casting vote in accordance with the policy of the political party or group of which he was a member.

The Court of Appeal so held, in dismissing an appeal from a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (unreported), but on similar facts to *R v Bradford City Council, Ex parte Wilson* (The Times December 23, 1988), refusing an application by Frederick Edward Corrie for judicial review of resolutions passed at a meeting of Bradford City Council on October 25, 1988 by use of the casting vote of its chairman, the lord mayor.

Mr Robin Allen and Mr Philip Giddeman for the applicant; Mr Michael Beloff, QC, and Miss Geneva Caws for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the word "casting" appeared to be derived from an archaic use of the word "cast" as meaning "to throw" or "to decide", so that a "casting vote" was one decisive in tilting the scales one way or another.

The present case was solely concerned with the regime for the conduct of meetings established by Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 39 of Part VI of which provided that all questions coming before a local authority

should be decided by a majority of the members present and voting thereon; and that "in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting should have 'a second or casting vote'". By reason of paragraph 4(1), that applied equally in relation to any committee or sub-committee.

After September 16, 1988, when a Conservative won a by-election, that party held 45 of the 90 seats on the council and decided to introduce policies opposed by Labour (43 seats) and the SLD (two seats); and on October 25, the Conservative lord mayor, Mr Midgeley, after a 45-45 vote on a resolution to increase the rents paid by council tenants, had exercised his statutory casting vote in favour of it.

Counsel for the applicant contended that in so doing Mr Midgeley was in breach of his duty, as lord mayor and chairman, to act with "impartiality"; and sought in a written submission to explain what that meant, as follows:

"Impartiality is the goal to be aimed at. It means fairness and not favouring either side... recognising the principle that decisions should be taken by a true majority. The degree to which this can be achieved depends on the nature of the resolution."

"(1) If further discussion is possible the fair course is to vote for this... (2) If a decision must go one way if the council is to act lawfully, there is no choice... (3) If there is on point or possibility of further discussion the vote should be for the status quo [as] the only principle that

may be appealed to without fear of criticism."

His Lordship remained unpersuaded of the soundness of such "impartiality" as a guiding principle: it seemed to him that a person presiding at a meeting was fully entitled to use the casting vote, which had first been introduced into local government by section 69 of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, as he thought fit — subject only to a clear duty to do so honestly and in accordance with what he believed to be the best interests of those affected by it.

The matter had been dealt with in a number of textbooks, passages in which Lord Justice Bingham had examined in *R v Bradford City Council, Ex parte Wilson*, commenting that there was a rule of practice so clear or well-established that Mr Midgeley could not defy it without his conduct being stigmatised as irrational.

His Lordship would agree with those comments.

A second issue was whether, by virtue of a series of agreements in Bradford as to the rotation of the office of lord mayor between the political parties, Mr Midgeley had been bound by convention always to act above party politics.

His Lordship would draw a distinction between the different functions of a lord mayor and a chairman. On ceremonial occasions, or when deciding as chairman which speakers to call

upon, he would undoubtedly eschew party politics.

But that was very different from fettering his political function, and there was nothing in any of the statutes or authorities to which the court had been referred which could indicate that as a matter of law a lord mayor or chairman should not cast his votes in favour of resolutions favoured by his own party.

A third point had been taken on the applicant's behalf: that Mr Midgeley was restricted in the manner in which he exercised his casting vote because at the time of his election one of the SLD councillors had indicated support for him only on the understanding "that he would not act politically".

As to that, Mr Midgeley had sworn on affidavit to the effect that while he recalled those remarks, he had not responded to them, nor had he at any time given that councillor or anyone else any undertaking as to how he would exercise his vote, or casting vote.

On the state of the evidence his Lordship found it quite impossible to infer the existence of any duty, undertaking, or estoppel which would restrict or fetter the way in which Mr Midgeley would use his second vote, if the general law imposed no such fetter on him. The application was therefore refused.

LORD JUSTICE Nourse and LORD JUSTICE May agreed.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Solicitors: Ms Isabel Manley and Ms Helen Carr, Bradford; Mr A. R. Sykes, Bradford.

## Declarations granted without argument

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bagga and Others, Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Ian Kennedy [Judgment May 23]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court, considering itself bound by authority, granted six applications for judicial review without hearing argument because the Home Secretary's submission that such authority was wrong would be more sensibly addressed to the Court of Appeal.

The applications were made by Kewal Krishnan Bagga, Rakesh Bist, Anil Bist, Chandrakalah Rasiyah, Vandeuan Rasiyah and Shuhla Kulkarni, for judicial review of decisions by immigration officers that they were not entitled to unconditional leave to remain (or, in the case of the first applicant, to enter) the United Kingdom.

Section 8(3) of the Immigra-

tion Act 1971, as amended by section 39(4) of, and Schedule 4 to the British Nationality Act 1981, provides:

"The provisions of this Act relating to those who are not British citizens shall not apply to any person so long as he is a member of a mission (within the meaning of the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964), a person who is a member of the family and forms part of the household of such a member, or a person otherwise entitled to the like immunity from jurisdiction as is conferred by that Act on a diplomatic agent."

The common issue was whether a person entering the United Kingdom became "a member of a mission", for the purposes of that subsection, from the moment of entry (as contended by the home secretary), or from the moment his appointment was notified to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (as contended by the applicants).

Mr Nicholas Blake for Mr Bagga; Mr Owen Davies for the other applicants; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Paul Sunchcombe for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that although there was no direct authority dealing with section 8(3), as amended, there had been a whole series of authorities in which a parallel issue had been considered.

Those were: *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Teja* ([1971] 2 QB 274; *R v Lambeth Justices, Ex parte Yusufu* ([1985] Crim LR 510); *Florentine v Secretary of State for the Home Department* ([1987] Imm AR 1); *Olajide v Secretary of State for the Home Department* ([1987] Imm AR 51); *Rahi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* ([1987] Imm AR 293); *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Mahmoud Mohammed Ali* (un-

reported, October 17, 1988) and *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Osman* (No 2) (The Times December 24, 1988).

Since his Lordship regarded that series as binding on the Divisional Court, counsel for the Home Secretary had very properly agreed that his attack on the reasoning in that series should be saved for the Court of Appeal, whether the present cases were clearly destined.

Declarations would accordingly be drawn up in favour of each applicant, not to be issued pending the decisions of the Court of Appeal, together with an order of certiorari to quash the immigration officer's decision in the case of the first applicant.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: W. P. Duckney, Southall; Seifert Sedley Williams, Treasury Solicitor.

## TAYLOR WOODROW

Property, Housing and Construction

### Record results: Positive progress: Opportunities for future growth

Sir Frank Gibb, Chairman and Chief Executive, reports:

In 1988 the group made very positive progress in all its operations. For the 28th consecutive year group results reached record levels, and we recorded a profit before tax of £103.3 million — up by 41% on the previous year's result. Dividends total 15p per share — an increase of 43% for the full year.

The investment properties of the group were valued by Knight Frank and Rudley at £682.6 million, an increase of £161.3 million, and including a surplus on revaluation of £91.2 million. The properties owned and occupied by group companies were valued at £89.5 million, including a surplus on revaluation of £40.3 million.

A feature of the year's performance was the strength of our property operations, especially in the UK. We have assembled a substantial and valuable portfolio of quality properties and in 1988 we added significantly to this.

Our contracting operations achieved increased UK profits but these were undermined by losses from two overseas contracts and from a related company

in New Zealand. Good progress is being achieved on the construction of the service tunnels at the Channel Tunnel.

Important new construction awards, coupled with our success in turning round the fortunes of some of our formerly unprofitable companies give me confidence for the future progress of this vital part of our business.

Our housing operations had a very good year and profits increased by 67% overall. The UK provided us with a strong market where we were very active in the USA and also in Canada. Our expanding operations in Spain and Australia indicate good prospects in these important markets.

I am optimistic for the future of your company. We consider the UK's economy to be soundly based and there are many opportunities for Taylor Woodrow's future growth.

Thanks are due to our team members and all others connected with our business.

HIGHLIGHTS	1988	1987	% Increase
Turnover	£1260.1m	£902.2m	40%
Profit before tax	£103.3m	£73.1m	41%
Earnings per share	41.7p	30.5p	37%
Dividends per share	15.0p	10.5p	43%
Value of investment properties	£682.6m	£521.3m	31%



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## COLOROLL GROUP PLC

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1989

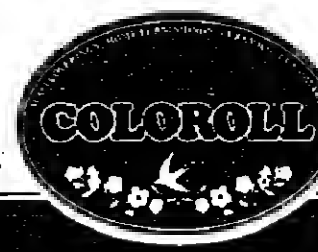
	£m	% increase
Sales	565.1	+119
Pre-tax profit	55.6	+113
Earnings per share	23p	+ 11

- \* Another record set of financial results
- \* Coloroll brand name dominant with the consumer
- \* Kosset and Crossley businesses revitalized
- \* Crowther disposal proceeds set to exceed cost
- \* Final dividend of 4.56p

"Trading in the first quarter of calendar 1989 remained strong. Although there are currently signs of weakness in some of our markets, we believe this to be a short term situation and that your Group will continue to make good progress this year as a result of product initiatives already in place, and increasing market share. The disposals and restructuring of the Crowther acquisition will give the Group the financial muscle to take full advantage of these opportunities."

23RD MAY, 1989

JOHN K. ASHCROFT



THE BIG NAME IN HOME FASHION



problems, prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

### DOLLAR SPOT RATES

## UN DON FINANCIARIO FUTURO

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# Retirement without tears



## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

# Signs of recovery at the Express

**E**xpress Newspapers has now moved from the famous black glass building to a brand new, rubber-planted spacious construction just over Blackfriars Bridge. In general the staffs seem well pleased with their new home, which they hopefully regard as a symbol of their chairman Lord Stevens's commitment to the newspaper business.

Circulation figures are less attractive. In April the *Daily Express* was selling 7 per cent fewer copies a day than a year ago, 145,000 behind the *Daily Mail*. The *Sunday Express* sold 9 per cent less than in the previous year; it has lost the 2 million sale and is falling behind *The Mail on Sunday*. The *Daily Star* also sold 9 per cent less and fell well below the million. Lord Stevens had to tell his shareholders last week that the trading performance in the first three months of the year was below expectations.

So it's easy to make fun of the 'Daily Distress'. Yet the editors are far from dismayed. Nick Lloyd, who took on the *Daily Express* editorship three years ago, finds some encouraging trends within the overall circulation: a higher percentage of women, of the better off and of the young; also some signs of a more stable figure. It took time for the paper to settle down after a period when editors seemed to change as frequently as the seasons. Now Lloyd has new heads in almost every department and the team works well.

After a period when the paper seemed to be groping for a character, Lloyd is determined it should not be regarded as Mrs Thatcher's poodle. Indeed he seems ready to campaign under the flag of Consumerism. There was also a period when the paper seemed quite Sloane Rangerish in its interests; Lloyd would like the paper to be more, in his phrase, "Bromley-friendly".

Recent promotional bursts have yielded temporary gains of only 1 to 2 per cent on circulation. In future, some of the paper's promotional money can be spent on higher paging which would allow upgrading — more space for foreign coverage, extra analysis of the straight news and some investigative reporting. Since the paper is making £20 million a year profit, Lloyd has earned his chairman's confidence and indeed he says they get on well.

His work has also earned the commendation of Alec Kenny, media director of Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising, who told me: "The *Daily Express* has

now got a consistency it lacked. It looks more modern, cleaner, sharper. It's trying to have some distinctive personality. Nevertheless it is my own belief that even if the paper has more personality it lacks personalities. Apart from that formidable battle-axe Jean Rook and the evergreen Giles, the *Daily Mail* team looks stronger.

There is also a serious political weakness. In the Fifties when the *Daily Express* was riding high, the political allegiance of its readers was very similar to the national profile. That strength has been lost, for according to one recent survey the nation would have voted early in 1988, 46 per cent Tory, 38 per cent Labour and 14 per cent Alliance. But the *Express* had a readership 71 per cent Tory, 16 per cent Labour and 11 per cent Alliance — very similar to the *Mail*. Lloyd may know the dangers of an ultra-right image, but he has not yet shed it.

Robin Esser has a tougher job at the *Sunday Express*. The formula rigidly maintained by Sir John Junor was immensely successful but was left un-

Now, to quote Kenny again, "it's different from *ITV*'s day but has yet to settle down. It doesn't feel quite right — still part rooted in the Sixties.

But a second section for money matters was a good move."

Esser sees his job as "keeping the best of the old and refreshing the new" and believes the completion of new printing arrangements at West Ferry Road in the autumn — surely still some way off — is the time for "the next phase of improvement" with larger papers giving him the opportunity to do "new things".

**H**e believes he already has the most valuable core audience — the affluent 45-year-olds; he would like them to be just a decade younger. But will he ever make that advance unless the tabloid that is trying to get out of the broadsheet is given its freedom?

Here is a major decision for Lord Stevens. With Conrad Black of Telegraph Newspapers building up a share stake, Stevens needs to gamble if he is to protect his company from unwelcome attentions. He has able editors with ideas. Has he the flair and imagination to lead them out of long-term decline? He will need to give them full support — and that usually means money. Well, as Lord Beaverbrook once told me, "You can't run a good newspaper without extravagance, Mr Wintour."

## THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

**I**t seems a long way from *Dangerous Liaisons*. Christopher Hampton's latest film script is *The Ginger Tree*, a four-part BBC drama series about a Scots girl in Manchuria at the turn of the century. Earlier this month the series started filming in Japan — an amicable-sounding co-production between the BBC, the Japanese state broadcasting company NHK and Boston's WGBH Masterpiece Theatre. Filming will switch to BBC TV Centre in July.

*The Ginger Tree* is the BBC's first venture into high definition television production, the television technology of the future. It offers viewers at home films of cinema quality, either on 5ft flal screens or on their present sets.

This series is all the more extraordinary because it involves partners from Europe, Japan and the United States, the world's three economic blocs which, at other levels, are currently battling to establish the industry standard for a global HDTV market estimated to be worth \$40 billion by the year 2010.

HDTV achieves its high definition by roughly doubling the current number of lines on the screen at any one time. However, Europe, Japan and the US start with different numbers of lines, so HDTV developments only widened the standards gap.

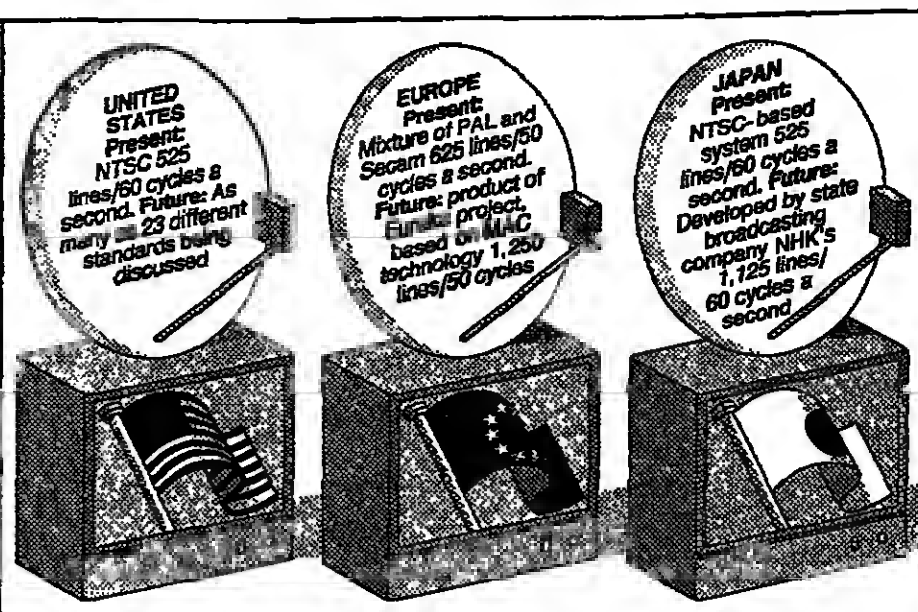
The Japanese were first off the blocks. They spent \$700 million developing a 1,225 line system which they hoped would establish a new industry standard and allow them to reassert their technical (and therefore economic) ascendancy over neighbouring newly industrialized countries.

Anxious to avoid the technical debacle which allowed Japan to dominate the video cassette market in the late 1970s, Europe responded in 1985 by setting up Eureka, its own collaborative initiative on high technology. Eureka project 95 (EU 95) will spend £300 million developing a 1,250 line HDTV standard which draws on the sophisticated MAC technology pioneered by Britain's IBA for use on direct broadcast by satellite. EU 95's HDTV system (sometimes known as HD-MAC) differs from the Japanese in that, with exactly double the number of lines, it is designed to be compatible with existing television sets.

Self-imposed restraints on government funding held the Americans back until President Reagan left office at the beginning of this year. American critics suspected EU 95 of the same bias against innovation manifest in the European Commission's espousal of compact disc. That, in the Americans' view, was a conspiracy perpetrated by the Dutch firm Philips to protect its library of PolyGram recordings from copying by the technically superior Japanese digital audio tape.

# Battle of the standards

Will the technological superpowers agree on high definition television? Andrew Lycett reports



At last week's meeting in Geneva of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR), the forum which next year will establish a world-wide standard for HDTV, Charles Sandbank, the BBC's deputy head of

engineering and chairman of the Eureka advisory board, detected a softening of US opposition to a system compatible with existing TV sets. "In the past the Americans clashed with the Europeans," he says. "They were always pushing the Japanese standard. This time they were more relaxed."

The CCIR meeting was followed by a visit to Washington by Christian Schwarz-Schilling, West German minister for posts and telecommunications. He proposed formal US-European co-operation on HDTV, quietly reminding his hosts that the two biggest US television manufacturers — Magnavox and RCA — are owned respectively by Philips and Thomson, EU 95's leading participants.

Not to be outdone, Japan has developed production and transmission technology as part of its HDTV programme. It now provides HDTV cam-



The *Ginger Tree*: the BBC's first venture into high definition television

eras and other equipment to broadcasters and film-makers at giveaway prices. The *Ginger Tree* is being filmed using Sony equipment. Officially the BBC gains "experience" of the new technology. In return Japan's NHK gets the commodity it most lacks — the programmes to run on its new-fangled television.

By setting the production standards, the Japanese hope that HDTV will be accepted as the broadcasting standard. Visiting the US last week, Patricia Hodgson, head of the BBC's policy and planning unit, discovered another line of advance in Japan's campaign. US networks are terrified that, having made their HDTV films, the Japanese will market HDTV video cassette recorders to play them.

Aware that "the key to HDTV taking off is programmes", Hodgson wants Eureka to devote more resources to production technology. It recently earmarked £30 million for a studio complex in Paris, but she wants that money shared across three centres, including Britain.

**H**D TV is well suited to satellite transmission and to encryption for pay-TV. Indeed the commercial future of some satellite companies could well be tied up with the successful development of the technology, which also features strongly in the BBC's corporate strategy over the next decade. Hodgson told a symposium in Brussels two months ago that if HDTV proves successful, "the likely next step would be to offer a premium service on one of the new delivery systems, whether satellite, cable or MVDS [microwave distribution]. The extra dimension of HDTV may well be what is needed to make such a service a success."

As with most technological advances, there are dissenters. Roger Gale, a former broadcaster and now Conservative MP for North Thanet, thinks HDTV is a red herring, rather like quadraphonic sound after stereo. He believes Europe should opt for a fully interactive digital TV system. But that is not available yet. So in the meantime, he believes, it should adopt "a short stop" — the wide-screen compressed HDTV, known as enhanced television (ETV), another development of the IBA Engineering Division near Winchester.

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THE WAY INTO THE CITY

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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## PR comes of age — seriously

Advertising's poor cousin has a smart new image — and it is paying off. Lisa O'Kelly reports

Peter Gummer, chairman and chief executive of public relations group Shandwick, is in an ebullient mood this week as he visits the United States to check on his latest acquisition, the New York PR company Golin Harris.

It is easy to understand why. Shandwick has just revealed that it boosted its earnings last year by 37 per cent to £14.9 million, confirming its place as the UK's No 1 PR company and establishing Gummer himself as the richest marketing services shareholder in the country.

His £12.65 million paper fortune puts him ahead even of the Saatchi brothers, who each own £8.34 million worth of Saatchi shares.

"PR has genuinely come of age," Gummer yells, down an echoing transatlantic telephone line. And if the league table published this week by the industry's newspaper, *PR Week*, is anything to go on, his declaration contains more than a grain of truth. The figures — audited this year for the first time — show that the PR business in Britain grew by just over 30 per cent last year,

easily outstripping advertising, which increased its earnings by a comparatively paltry 10 per cent.

In real terms advertising is by far the larger industry. The top 150 PR consultancies' overall income of £170.7 million in 1988 is dwarfed by the estimated £6.7 billion spent on advertising last year. But PR's traditional image as advertising's poor relation is fast becoming outdated, and the smart money says the sector will continue expanding at a healthy pace.

One reason for this — according to the PR people, at least — is that advertising has become so expensive that traditionally high-spending clients are looking at other ways of making their media and marketing budgets work for them.

"We have seen a lot of money moving from media advertising into PR, particularly in the consumer goods area," Gummer says. "What is happening is that clients who spend £4 million to £5 million on advertising are asking themselves whether it does not make sense to take a couple of thousand out of that budget and spend it on PR



In the money: Peter Gummer's paper fortune of £12.65 million puts him ahead of the Saatchis

backup. That kind of money will get you one and a half people working full-time for a year, which is a pretty heavy commitment."

Another important factor in the improving fortunes of PR has been the emergence of a number of new high-growth sectors where advertising is unable to get a look in. According to Angela Heylin, chairman of the No 2 consultancy, Charles Barker PR, whose 1988 earnings were up 9 per cent to £9.55 million, the most growth is to be found

in areas such as corporate PR for companies involved in take-over bids or mergers (a take-over panel ruling in 1987 put an end to advertising in such situations), and in political and government relations both nationally and internationally.

Better established, but still growing, is financial services PR, especially in the field of investor relations. And although the money to be made from government flotations has dried up, there are still rich pickings to be had from

privatizations such as water and electricity. This has led to the setting up of a rash of new consultancies over the past year, 10 of which have already found their way into *PR Week*'s top 150 companies.

But most significant factor contributing to the growth of the PR industry has been its success in changing its own image. Gummer says: "We're attracting a better class of trainee and the business is 100 per cent more professional now than it was when I started 15 years ago."

So much so that major companies which find themselves under media scrutiny cannot afford to be without professional PR help. As *PR Week*'s editor, Peter Yeo, points out, behind every big news story there now lurks a PR person.

Gummer's Shandwick worked overtime for Coos Gold during its recent skirmish with Minorco, which was itself represented by a Saatchi subsidiary. WPP-owned Hill and Knowlton is handling PR for Lonrho in its feud with the Fayed brothers, who use the Broadstreet consultancy. Tim Bell's Lowe Bell Group is helping James Goldsmith in his stalking of RHM and aiding and abetting the government in its electricity privatization. The list goes on.

And WPP's Martio Sorrell, for one, feels the gentrification of PR has only just begun. His group makes \$200 million, or 10 per cent of its annual \$2 billion revenue, from PR, and he predicts that this figure will continue to climb. "Just as the G&T stereotype of the adman has long since disappeared, the classic image of the PR man is being transformed," he says. "Half of our business comes from non-media advertising and PR is one of the most important areas of that sector. It's a serious business now."

## BYLINES

## Making the grade

Channel 4 has appointed 48-year-old Jeremy Taylor, TV-am's head of corporate development, as its new head of press and publicity. C4 boss Michael Grade's decision to appoint Taylor, who has the appointment report directly to him, led to the resignation last month of Sue Stoessl, the channel's head of marketing. Previously press and publicity came within her empire. Although Taylor's job description also includes marketing, C4 emphasizes that he is not taking over Stoessl's job. The channel is reorganizing its top management, following proposed changes in its role envisaged in the Government's White Paper last November. If one of the White Paper's suggestions — that C4 should sell its own advertising — is implemented, a new director of sales is expected at Charlotte Street.

## Health kick

Nick Lamb, managing director of NML Presentations, the company behind the Department of Health's £1 million NHS Review roadshows, has written to Labour MP Frank Dobson complaining about remarks he made last week in the House of Commons. Dobson said the "little-known" company had "one vital asset... close connections with the Tory party". By which he meant Tim Bell, Downing Street media adviser and boss of NML Presentations' parent company, Lowe, Howard, Spink and Bell. In his letter, sent yesterday, Lamb says Bell had nothing to do with the contract. He describes Dobson's charges as "insulting" and "without foundation", and calls for an apology.

## Virgin territory

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is about to extend its publishing empire. W.H. Allen, 68 per cent owned by Virgin, is on the point of finalizing a deal to acquire the non-fiction lists of long-established independent rival, Harpurs, which last year published the best-seller, *Stalker*. An announcement is expected next week.

## Higher station

A 24-hour Christian radio station, broadcasting via satellite and cable television, will be launched tomorrow. Network Eleven begins transmission in July using the spare radio channel of Intelsat V transponder currently used by the Discovery Channel. It is the brainchild of Peter Nott, who previously worked with the Swindon-based Christian cable production company, Vision Broadcasting International. Nott says Network Eleven's airwaves will be open to programming from all Christian broadcasters. It is non-denominational. One major problem remains, however. It has yet to sign up any cable systems to take its service.

## No change

Returning from a short stay in China where — along with others — he was advising the state-owned China Public Relations Corporation on how to go about its business, *Evening Standard* editor John Leese was astonished to read last week's "Bylines" report that he was about to swap jobs with Nick Gordon, editor of *The Mail on Sunday*'s successful *You* magazine. Leese says there is no truth in the report. My apologies.

## Nightingales

Musical chairs in Berkeley Square. In September, after over 30 years at No 25 on the north side of the square, the magazine arm of *Reader's Digest* is moving to Curzon Street, from where the present incumbent, Glaxo, is decamping to offices in the new Saatchi building on Berkeley Square's south side.

## Practical decision

Diamonds Communications, part of the French Hachette publishing group, has pulled out of its deal to buy *McCall's*, the United States' practical women's magazine. The New York Times Company, which owns *Family Circle*, has emerged as front runner to buy *McCall's*, which sells 5.1 million copies.

## Briefing...

David Veevers, group public affairs manager at the Prudential Corporation, is to join Wolff Olins as client director. Channel 4 has commissioned Europa, a new 10-part pan-European magazine series costing £750,000, from Diverse Production and Barracough Carey Productions. *Monday night* has appointed two new deputy editors, Eamonn Matthews and Keith Bowers, to understatey editor John Morrison...

Andrew Lycett

## A new magazine in the most select of company

The City of London is about to have a new tribal notice-board. It will seek to restore, or at least redefine, the image of the City's ancient livery companies, whose impact on the public mind today amounts to little more than a vague impression of turtle soup and gold-braided footmen.

In fact, the livery companies, immensely wealthy from the wisely-timed benefactions of past generations of Skinners, Girdlers, Mercers and the like, are a significant part of the City's discreet network of communications, and large-scale corporate contributors to a host of charitable causes.

From Friday this week they are to have their own magazine. Two former masters of livery companies, Clive Willocks and Tim Straker, have combined their talents to launch a suitably sumptuous quarterly which is to be called *Root and Branch*, reminiscence of the traditional toast drunk at company dinners: "Root and branch, may it flourish for ever!"

Willocks, who will edit the magazine, is past master of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, and in real life a Chelsea antiques dealer. Straker, a Girdler, will publish it as one of the stable of magazines owned by Harper Trade Journals, part of the Straker Group.



"Many members have very little idea what livery companies other than their own are doing," says Willocks. "Root and Branch will be circulated free to all the 22,000 liverymen and also to MPs, industrial leaders and the Press. If we inform

our own members better about all the things that we do, they will be the best advertising men we could have."

The 48-page full-colour magazine is not intended to be one more example of the guilds' philanthropy. It will in fact be a very select freeshirt, paid for by advertisers who appreciate the potential of an audience composed almost exclusively of high-fliers.

As well as keeping the liverymen themselves up to date with news of their companies and coming events in the City, it is meant to inform the public about the practical and picturesque aspects of livery companies' work.

"We will have regular columns about the ancient trades commemorated in company names and about the stories behind City place-names," Willocks says.

"Many expressions connected with the livery companies have passed into the language, like 'sixes and sevens', which refers to the rivalry between the Merchant Taylors and Skinners over which of them had priority in the order of precedence. It was finally settled when the Lord Mayor said they should alternate in sixth and seventh place annually, which they still do to this day."

George Hill

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BBC News & Current Affairs

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Continued on next page



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## Royal Opera House

### ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

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The Friends of Covent Garden was established in 1962 as a charity. It has 18,000 members, and plays a major part in support of all aspects of the work of The Royal Opera. The Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

Candidates should have experience of print production and/or events management, good communication and administrative skills allied with knowledge of and enthusiasm for opera and ballet.

Typing of sufficient standard to cope with own correspondence is essential.

The successful applicant, who will work closely with the Director, is likely to be educated to degree standard and to have worked for a membership organisation, or an arts organisation. Salary negotiable but not less than £10,500.

Please apply in writing with full CV to the Personnel Manager, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD.

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Continued from page 21

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From £16,500 + Benefits

Our client, a prestigious City Company located near London Bridge, requires a Personal Assistant/Secretary to work for the Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to providing superior secretarial skills, the candidate selected will be required to see to the smooth running of all aspects of his office. Initiative, calmness and commitment as well as the ability to get on well with people at all levels are pre-requisites of the job. A knowledge of German would be useful but is not essential.

This is a busy position and would interest mature secretaries who are prepared to accept responsibility and prefer to work with minimum direction and supervision. The right candidate may in addition be asked to launch an in-house newsletter covering the multinational operations which make up this rapidly growing company.

Written applications together with a full C.V. should be marked confidential and addressed to:

The Chief Executive, reference 3123, c/o Buckmans Limited, Number One Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HD.

GAME, SET AND  
MATCH  
£14,000

A senior director of one of the most famous tennis organisations in the world needs an efficient PA, who is not only adept at dealing with people but also takes an interest in sport. Charming and professional, he is looking for a professional to assist him in the organisation and promotion of world-pulling tournaments and events. In addition to the normal secretarial duties you will attend meetings, prepare presentations and liaise with both sponsors, officials and the press.

Skills: 100/60 Age: 25-35

Tel: 408 1481

ANGELA MORTIMER

WINE  
COMPANY.  
S.E.1

Requires efficient Audio/VP/Secretary for busy sales department. Please phone Carole Bloodworth on 01-708 0088 for interview.

INTERNATIONAL FRAGRANCE  
COMPANYPA/SECRETARY  
£13,000

The Managing Director, located in Bond Street is seeking a stylish, self motivated, assistant with good communication skills, a basic knowledge of accounts and an ability to co-ordinate international and domestic sales projects.

Please send your C.V. to:

(box number) 249.

## PARTNERS P.A.

£13,000 + Bonus - W.1.

Proven practice seeks PA with good typ. and skills. Clerical. No home typing.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

FASHION CO. £12,500 +

Discreet - Mrs Good WP/VP skills for rewarding work.

Tel: 208 1958

Farms Rec.

## SECRETARY/PA

TO £11,000

VP based Co. need a good strong PA to assist in all aspects of a chaotic office. Must have good typing/WP skills and be able to take initiative and work on own initiative and priorities worldwide.

Call immediately on 01-485 7005 ask for Denise

No agencies

UNCORK SOME SPARKLING  
TEMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Enjoy a glass of Bucks Fizz at Beauchamp Place and a chat with Senior Secretaries' Temporary Consultant. Discuss with her what it is you want from temporary assignments this Summer. 'Senior' in our name refers to calibre, not seniority. We have lots of opportunities for young, well spoken and well

presented people with good secretarial and word processing skills. Phone Rowena on 01-589 4422 to fix an appointment. It could make all the difference to your earnings this summer. 185-187 Brompton Road, London SW3 1NE Telephone: 01-589 4422



## SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

IF YOU WANT TO WORK  
ABROAD IN A LIVELY  
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT  
note that  
THE COMMISSION OF  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
is organising an open competition for the recruitment of  
SECRETARIAL STAFF

You would probably be based in Brussels or Luxembourg and you would be expected to perform various office duties: mainly typing (in English or in other Community languages) but other secretarial tasks as well. Male or female (the Commission is an Equal Opportunities Employer) you should be aged between 18 and 35 and be a national of one of the Member States, have at least 5 'O' levels/grades and 2 years' professional experience of similar duties (bilingual secretarial studies will be counted as experience) and, preferably, be familiar with word-processors and automated office equipment. You should have a thorough knowledge of English and a satisfactory knowledge of one other Community language.

To obtain the competition notice and the compulsory application form, please write, preferably on a post card, quoting the reference COM/C666 to one of the following:

INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
8, Storey's Gate, UK-LONDON SW1P 3AT  
7, Alva Street, UK-EDINBURGH EH2 4PH  
Windsor House, 9/15 Bedford Street, UK-BELFAST BT2 7EG  
4 Cathedral Road, UK-CARDIFF CF1 9SG

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
Recruitment Division, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 BRUSSELS

NB. THE LAST POSTING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS: 19 JUNE 1989

\* University graduates are not eligible

## PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

EXCELLENT SALARY + BENEFITS CHARTERED SURVEYORS LONDON W1

We are a major firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants with more than 200 employees based at our London Head Office with four regional offices at Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester.

We are looking for an experienced Personnel Assistant to work closely with our Personnel Manager in providing a first class service to the firm in all aspects of human resource management. As well as providing a full secretarial service, your duties will include the efficient administration of personnel records, systems and procedures, the recruitment and induction of secretarial and administrative staff and the organising and administration of in-house and secretarial training courses.

You will be well educated, flexible and organised and will want to play an active part within the firm. Good communication and keyboard skills are essential.

In return, we offer a first class salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus a comprehensive benefits package including bonus scheme, service award and luncheon vouchers.

For further details, write in confidence or telephone:

Steven James  
Personnel Manager, King & Co  
7 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE  
Tel: 01-493 4933

DIPLOMAT  
17k

The Chief Executive of a leading international headhunter requires a high calibre Personal Assistant who has had senior level commercial experience and is looking for some more mileage in their job.

The skills that he needs are intelligence, tact and diplomacy, an ability to manage all the administration of his business life and a country estate with a shoot.

The rewards are full involvement in the business and running of the company with scope to develop this role further. He himself is charming, keen to delegate and demands high standards.

Age 25-35 Skills: 100/60

HANOVER  
SQUARE  
DIVISION  
01-408-1461

ANGELA MORTIMER

CAREER  
MOVE

£20,000 Package

A leading global, international investment company requires a highly motivated P.A. for one of their most senior executives, who has enjoyed a meteoric rise through the company.

With his outstanding intellectual ability and personal flair, he heads up several major divisions as well as maintaining considerable client contact and travelling extensively.

His P.A. must be fully conversant with all his affairs and be able to hold their fort in his absence. Probably a graduate, you must be poised and professional with exceptional organisational skills and above all, be anxious to further your career.

Skills: 100/60

City Office

726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

COVENT GARDEN  
Chartered Accountants

Busy, friendly, expanding firm in Covent Garden require staff to fill the following vacancies:

JUNIOR SECRETARY  
Minimum age 22

Interesting, demanding job with client contact and plenty of responsibility and prospects for advancement. Good WP/shorthand skills required. Smart presentation and pleasant manner. Salary - market rate.

RECEPTIONIST/WP  
OPERATOR

Applicants required with good WP skills and personality to handle reception duties. Contact with firm's wide ranging clients, requires a pleasant, professional and friendly manner, with smart appearance. Salary - market rate.

For further details on either position contact Ruth Carter, Tel: 01-836 3266.

## GRUNDY MACK &amp; CO.

We are an exciting, progressive, young company in the financial services market looking for a strong personality to act as Receptionist/Administrator/W.P. Operator in our friendly, warm based office in SE1. Excellent potential.

Please call Gillian on 01 252 1414

## Audio Secretary

Accurate typist with good telephone manner to assist two partners in busy office dealing with property finance.

Would suit second jobber. Salary: £10-11,000

Please telephone 724 3311.

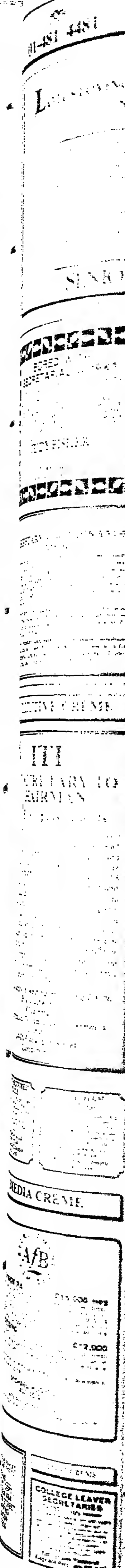
No agencies.

## HAMPTONS

Hamptons, one of the country's leading estate agents requires a secretary to work at one of their Residential Developments in Fulham.

WP knowledge is essential. Salary according to age and experience.

Tel: 01-731 8556





01-481 4481

# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

## LOTUS LOVING ADMINISTRATIVE PA £16,000 NO SHORTHAND

Are you a self-starter? If you become the PA to the head man of this City-based International Financial Institution, you will have every chance to use your initiative. You must enjoy organising the administration of your area and liaising extensively with clients. Your talents with spreadsheets

and wordprocessing will be highly valued as will your professionalism and flexibility. Ability to compose own correspondence essential. Short-hand useful, but not essential. Salary £16,000 (AAE). Telephone 01-606 1611. 3/6 Trump Street, London EC2V 8DA.

## SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

### BORED WITH SECRETARIAL WORK?

Are you fishing for more than just a job? Do you feel you can do more, go further? If so, JFA has a wide variety of vacancies with prospects in media/creative environments, where secretaries can really get on. If you are prepared to use your skills to get a foot on the ladder we will lead you to the jobs where you can really make it to the top. Ring us now for all the details.

JUDY FISHER  
ASSOCIATES  
01-493 0238  
Recruitment Consultants

### AUDIO SECRETARY £10,000 - £11,000

To work in a commercial property company within the agency department. Reliability and a good sense of humour are vital, together with good audio and WP skills. Candidates should be in their 20's and want to become involved with the small team. For further information please contact Karen Sandeman

Rapleys

01-439 6292  
(No agencies please)

### TOP NOTCH £15,500 + BONUS

A career opportunity for a confident and outgoing PA Secretary. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### EXECUTIVE PA £14,000

An active and motivated PA Secretary is sought by a leading London City-based company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### MAGAZINE £14,000 + BENS

A talented and motivated PA Secretary is sought by a leading London City-based company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### PERSONNEL SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR SW1 £12,500

An opportunity has arisen in our Personnel Department for a Secretary/Administrator. The ideal candidate would have at least three years' experience in a Personnel role, together with excellent secretarial and word processing skills. This vacancy would provide an opportunity for someone wishing to pursue a career in Personnel. The job offered will be 50% secretarial and 50% personnel administration including share options and medical insurance scheme. It would be an advantage to have experience of Personnel and Missing Link, which are the systems used; but training on programs will be arranged where necessary. Other benefits include non-contributory pension scheme, four weeks holiday, free private medical insurance, free lunches in staff restaurant, season ticket loan scheme, SAYE share option scheme after three years' service. For further details please contact Elaine Gardner on 01-430 8061 (No Agencies Please)

abbatt abbatt abbatt

### S/H WHIZ £14,750 pa

The Chief Executive of a leading Arts Institute is offering a fully involving role with extensive client contact. In addition to providing excellent secretarial support you will be a "dab hand" at organising an extremely busy diary and varied schedule. It is a highly sociable environment with promotional and exhibition work in the day. Call Lynne Miller on 01-491-1888.

Creative Crème  
LA CRÈME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES c £15,000

Lovely offices and a charming Managing Director will be yours when you join this small, friendly division of an international company. Skills of 100/60/40 and a warm, self-assured manner essential. Hours 8.30 - 4.30 pm (3pm on Friday). Age 25+. Please call Virginia Wasicka on 434 4512

### Crone Corkill RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

### W. T. HILLS & CO CHARTERED QUANTITY SURVEYORS

We need a young, energetic secretary for our busy technical department. Wordprocessing experience preferable. WordPerfect package but will train. Benefits are a monthly review, yearly bonus and excellent pension. Please call Mrs Davies on 01-581 8833.

### ENTREPRENEURIAL FLAVOUR £17,000

An exciting and unique challenge is offered in a growing company in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

Golden Square  
Division  
287 7788  
ANGELA MORTIMER

### FULHAM ESTATE AGENTS

Capable, friendly secretary to run their office. Excellent benefits. Please call Mrs Davies on 01-581 8833.

### STAFFPLAN LIMITED

P.A. SEC  
£16,000 + BONUS  
Opportunity to work for a leading London City-based company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

Belgravia  
Well known design shop requires an assistant for administration & sales. Very interesting & varied job. Excellent opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

EXPERIENCED  
SECRETARY  
Required for a leading London City-based company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

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DESIGN COMPANY  
Requires a Secretary to deal with all aspects of a small office. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

MEDICAL  
SECRETARY  
HARLEY STREET  
PA to busy consultant. Unusually large & full-time practice. Varied work with lots of patient contact. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

ACME  
GET INTO BANKING  
£13,500 - MTGE SUB  
We have 3 superb opportunities for skilled (100/60) hand sec's who are keen to further their careers in the City. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

### ATTN HOME OWNERS! £16K PACKAGE @ 20+

When changing your job the two most important factors are usually job content and money. Our Client, a major City Bank, is currently in a position to offer both to a good secretary. Working for two dynamic young executives within the Investment Dept. you'll enjoy lots of variety, involvement & responsibility. You will also earn an excellent basic salary £11,000 + 3% mortgage subsidy, worth between £1,000 & £4,000 depending upon the size of your mortgage (if you don't have a mortgage but are thinking of buying your own home, this would certainly help). Free lunch, STL pension scheme, bonus, free health care etc, and maybe you will even keep fit at their leisure centre! It's a stimulating, fairly pressurised environment & the ability to think quickly whilst using your initiative is essential. Ideally you will have 90/100 wpm shorthand, good typing and have worked as a secretary for 2-3 years. PREVIOUS BANKING EXPERIENCE IS NOT REQUIRED. Call us now for more details 580 4765 Recruitment Consultants

### CROSS SELECTION

Call us now for more details 580 4765 Recruitment Consultants

### MEDICAL SECRETARY HARLEY STREET

PA to busy consultant. Unusually large & full-time practice. Varied work with lots of patient contact. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

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### EXECUTIVE CRÈME

PA SECRETARY TO  
CHAIRMAN  
C. £15,000 plus benefits

The Chairman of a St James' based company specialising in computer hardware, software maintenance, support, training and consultancy is currently seeking to recruit an Executive Secretary to assist him in a full PA secretarial role. Good typing and shorthand are essential and WP experience would be preferable although full training will be given. If you feel that you have the experience for this position and would be able to direct your enthusiasm towards the continued success of this exciting, innovative company, we offer in return a competitive salary, benefits, the opportunity for personal skills development, and an excellent career path.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV to:  
P J Clatworthy  
Chairman  
Information Technology Investments  
Limited  
14-16 Cockspur Street  
London SW1

### SUPER SECRETARIES

PICTURE THIS!  
£14,500 - £15,000 p.a.

British Film Company based Soho need lead hand to take on the varied role of Secretary/Assistant to the MD and the Business Development Director. If you have sound secretarial experience including shorthand and W.P. skills (Wordperfect), please call Pam Greenwood for an early audition.

PAM GREENWOOD PERSONNEL  
TELEPHONE: 01-938 2222

### SENIOR WP OPERATOR/ GIRL FRIDAY

To become involved in the management of a Fulham Business Centre. Salary scale £12,000 - £15,000. Tel: 384 1876

### EUROCENTRES PLC

£24,000 Successful Technology Company based in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### CONSERVATIVE MP

£24,000 Successful Technology Company based in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### CLAPHAM £17,000

Secretary (WP) with good skills required by M.D. of fast expanding, young company. Transcendent involvement and responsibility, no stress of sales from consulting. Call Carolyn on 01-493 0238 (see CV).

### AVOID THE STRIKE! £15,000

Free car and parking provided when you work for the Chairman of this International Company. You must have good skills and organisational ability to deal with his hectic business and social life. Call Carolyn on 01-493 0238 (see CV).

### CLAPHAM £17,000

Secretary (WP) with good skills required by M.D. of fast expanding, young company. Transcendent involvement and responsibility, no stress of sales from consulting. Call Carolyn on 01-493 0238 (see CV).

### TELEVISION PA £15,000 neg

As PA to the Chief Executive of this newly formed Entertainment Group, you will be expected to contribute to its future growth by utilising your secretarial skills of 90/60 and preferably another language. Rewards will include full involvement in the worldwide TV and Video business plus excellent career prospects.

For more information on these and many other vacancies in the Media please contact:  
MICHAEL HUGHES  
437 4502  
AFB Recruitment Limited  
11 Oxford Circus Ave, 231 Oxford Street, London W1

### COLLEGE LEAVER SECRETARIES £3,000 + July review

This major recruitment firm will support 20 office secretaries in July and August. A branch in the City where you will be working with the most experienced and motivated secretaries. The branch is in the City and is a very busy office. The branch is in the City and is a very busy office. The branch is in the City and is a very busy office.

### Personnel Secretary.

Required by 5 Star Duxford Hotel in Mayfair. To work within a busy Personnel Department. Good opportunity for a young, energetic secretary. Salary £12,000 - £15,000. Tel: 384 1876

### KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES c £15,000

Lovely offices and a charming Managing Director will be yours when you join this small, friendly division of an international company. Skills of 100/60/40 and a warm, self-assured manner essential. Hours 8.30 - 4.30 pm (3pm on Friday). Age 25+. Please call Virginia Wasicka on 434 4512

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GET INTO BANKING  
£13,500 - MTGE SUB  
We have 3 superb opportunities for skilled (100/60) hand sec's who are keen to further their careers in the City. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

### OVERSEAS TRAVEL UP TO £15,000

Working for the President of a leading London City-based company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### SOCIAL PA/SECRETARY £15,000

A well known Property Company in the City is seeking a PA to help set up their new international office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business in addition to providing full secretarial support. An excellent environment and full range of benefits on offer (see CV).

### TEMPERING TIMES Maine-Tucker

Things are moving really fast here now at Maine-Tucker Tempers and we urgently need Super Tempers for fun and varied long or short term bookings. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

### TEMPERS £8.00ph

Join our professional team. We are currently seeking experienced tempers for a variety of roles. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

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### WP TEMPS £8.50 PER HOUR

All areas of Central London, Cross-training available for long-term availability. Call Jacqueline on 01-242 2344 THE HATTON GARDEN AGENCY

### TEMPERS £8.00ph

Join our professional team. We are currently seeking experienced tempers for a variety of roles. Good opportunity. Tel: Mrs Hobart 01 584 1744.

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### TEMPERS £8.00ph



Peter Ball finds Gordon Taylor urging football's leaders to set right example

# The summer for solutions



In the last 10 days, pouring scorn on the filtering leadership of football has become an almost irresistible occupation. The Football Association, in particular, has cut a sad figure at a time when the game is in desperate need of firm direction.

But mockery is easy. Supplying a solution to some insurmountable problems, most of them social rather than sporting, is another matter, as Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), and one football administrator still with his credibility intact, points out.

"Life could never be the same again after Hillsborough," the stocky former Bolton winger reflected sombrely on Monday in the Manchester offices of the PFA. "It must change to make sure that it can never happen again. But there are too many people offering catch-penny solutions to million-pound problems."

"I think there is this general desire for an instant panacea. Even the Government wants something you can package and say: 'That's my answer', but there isn't that simple answer. It is like asking a politician to come up with an instant solution to Northern Ireland or the Lebanon."

For all the intractable nature of the problems, however, Taylor is clearly eager to contribute — if he is given the chance.

The PFA's members have emerged with more credit from Hillsborough and its aftermath than any other group, but that did not prevent Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, reviving the oldest of red herrings by blaming their behaviour for contributing to crowd disorder in his ill-judged speech to the Football Writers' Association last week. Yet to Taylor's evident frustration, the Minister for Sport, unlike his predecessors, has made no attempt to consult the players or any supporters' organisation.

"The players have behaved impeccably since Hillsborough," Taylor insisted firmly. "You had young men with no training and often little formal education plunged into a situation where the grief was so thick you could cut it, and they acted as counsellors, gave support, and having handled that, they then went on to play some of the best football ever. And then on Saturday those players gave their all for 120 minutes and then



Time for reflection and looking ahead: Gordon Taylor says the game must go on under the right direction

had to put up with pitch invasions and intimidation. They were absolutely stamped by supporters and handled it all magnificently."

Under prodding from his members, Taylor was even moved to write to the Prime Minister to suggest a meeting in which he could put forward his association's point of view. Perhaps predictably, he was disappointed, being informed that the Prime Minister's diary was too crowded.

It seems an unfortunate response, for Taylor is convinced that in the wake of Hillsborough and the subsequent crowd problems at Crystal Palace and Wembley, the only answer is for everyone to spend the summer round a table trying to produce some solution, for like almost everyone concerned to trying to make any such scheme work, he is convinced that neither the Government's identity card scheme nor a wholesale ban on away fans is the answer. Yet he admits that so far football has not come up with an alternative.

"If football spends the summer arguing over the TV package and the size of the first division, going to tribunals over transfer fees, and arguing over playing surfaces, rather than trying to sort out some way forward, then we will perhaps deserve to be dragged screaming through the Government's hoop," he argued.

"But I don't believe their solution

will work, because the people who will have to make it work are having it forced on them without being part of it, and their innate stubbornness will surface. And more importantly, it is trying to treat football in a vacuum when it is so much part of the fabric of society."

Perhaps naively, Taylor believes that the Government should welcome a move to provide some real answers over the long term rather than an easily marketable package. But he is convinced that if any real solution is to be found, the Government will have to play a part as an independent arbiter pulling a steering committee together.

We must have everyone who is involved on the practical side — police, fire brigade, local safety officers, transport authority, and football all working together," he suggested. "I don't think it is fair to expect a judge or the police to come up with the recommendations on their own. Football needs to be involved, too."

"But how could people who are only trained in football be expected to supply the answers to questions on law and order, crowd control, and safety, which is what football is being asked to do? If we are going to, we need financial support and legislative support, and input from all the

relevant authorities. How can football solve in isolation what is sweeping through the whole of the rest of society — increasing violence and aggression of young males?"

If that questioning approach has little appeal to demagogues inside and outside football, it makes a lot more sense than the kind of snap judgments that have left the FA in such farcical disarray. And Taylor does have some suggestions as well, pointing out that schemes like the PFA's Football in the Community programme have led to improved crowd behaviour at 35 participating clubs.

That, he insists, must be part of the way forward. It is, however, a slow process, as most genuine solutions are likely to be. The demands for extra training with different standards being required for clubs in differing divisions, will also take time to be reached, Taylor believes.

But as Taylor insisted: "There aren't any easy answers — or at least there is one: 'Close the game down.' People say we don't need football. But my answer is that people do need recreation just like they need food, and drink, and clothing, and shelter."

"And since Hillsborough with its passions and emotions, the game has shown it can bring out the very finest in people. We are going to wipe all that away for the sake of getting rid of the basic elements?"

## RUGBY UNION

### Scots may be in for a bruising match

From Alan Lorrimer  
Osaka

Scotland, who play Kansai tonight in the fourth and penultimate game of their tour in Nagoya, have already discovered that whatever the Japanese lack in height they make up for in strength.

On Sunday against a Japan under-23 side, the Scottish pack was twice sent backwards as the home forwards applied pressure. A possible reason for Scotland's set piece lapses, apart from the humidity, may have been their lack of practice with a scrummaging machine. Consequently, their coach, Richie Dixon, insisted that one be made available for training yesterday.

Missing from the session was Tukalo, who suffered a bruised thigh from a late tackle on Sunday. The ferocity of the Japanese tackling has caused several injuries on this tour. The other day Dixon referred to a practice session in which the Scots were "learning how to ride the tackle". They will certainly need to do so if Kansai defied with the same vigour as Kyushu last Wednesday.

The Welsh international referee, Les Ford, will officiate. He also takes charge of the match against Japan on Sunday.

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FOOTBALL: THE EUROPEAN CUP FINAL SHOULD PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION OF SKILL AND TACTICAL JUDGEMENT

BOXING

# Steaua prepare to resist Milan's Dutch influence

The irresistible meets the immovable here at Nou Camp tonight. This year's European Cup final will be a contest of skill and tactical wit between AC Milan and Steaua Bucharest, with no certainty that the extravagant Dutch talent of Rijkaard, Gullit and van Basten will secure the trophy for Milan for the first time since 1969.

Emerich Jenei, the Romanian national manager who was Steaua's coach when they beat Barcelona, led by Terry Venables, on penalties in 1986 in Seville, says with a smile that he thinks his team will be better than the present side coached by Anghel Iordanescu. I suppose he would, wouldn't he?

The present team is about to undergo the ultimate test, and they seem sure to pose a far more complex tactical problem for Milan than did Real Madrid in the semi-finals. "Real allow you to play, Steaua prevent you playing," Arrigo Sacchi, the Milan coach, says.

Iordanescu who was then player-assistant coach, came on as substitute in Seville. He is now 39, and there is debate still over his replacement of Jenei two years ago. It is thought that the son of the Romanian president, Ceausescu, who is here with the squad and is heavily involved with Steaua, was influential in the managerial switch, which is regarded as a step down for Jenei.

Yet Steaua have undoubtedly been strengthened by the transfer of Hagi, the country's most accomplished player, from the university club, Sportul Studentesc. It is the counter-attacking skills from mid-field of Hagi, Stoica and Petrescu which will threaten Milan's conventional Italian defence which operates, like Liverpool's, without a sweeper and with both centre backs, Rijkaard and Baresi, alternately pushing forward.

Hagi, with whom England's defence are well acquainted as a left winger, nowadays switches from flank to flank, and Sacchi will presumably allocate either Colombo or Evani the job of marking him man for man.

Madrid (Reuters) — A strike by Spanish television employees could block out coverage of the European Cup final. Employees and management at Radiotelevision Española have failed to agree on providing a service.

It is the sort of match which, if the teams were to be unhindered, could finish 4-4 at the end of 90 minutes; but it is more likely, given the stakes, to be 0-0. Much will depend on how fully Gullit has recovered from a cartilage operation immediately following the semi-final second leg in which he limped off in the second half. For van Basten it is a poignant occasion: he has already signed an advance contract to join Barcelona in 1990 and might do it sooner — for more than £1 million a year — were Milan now to lose.

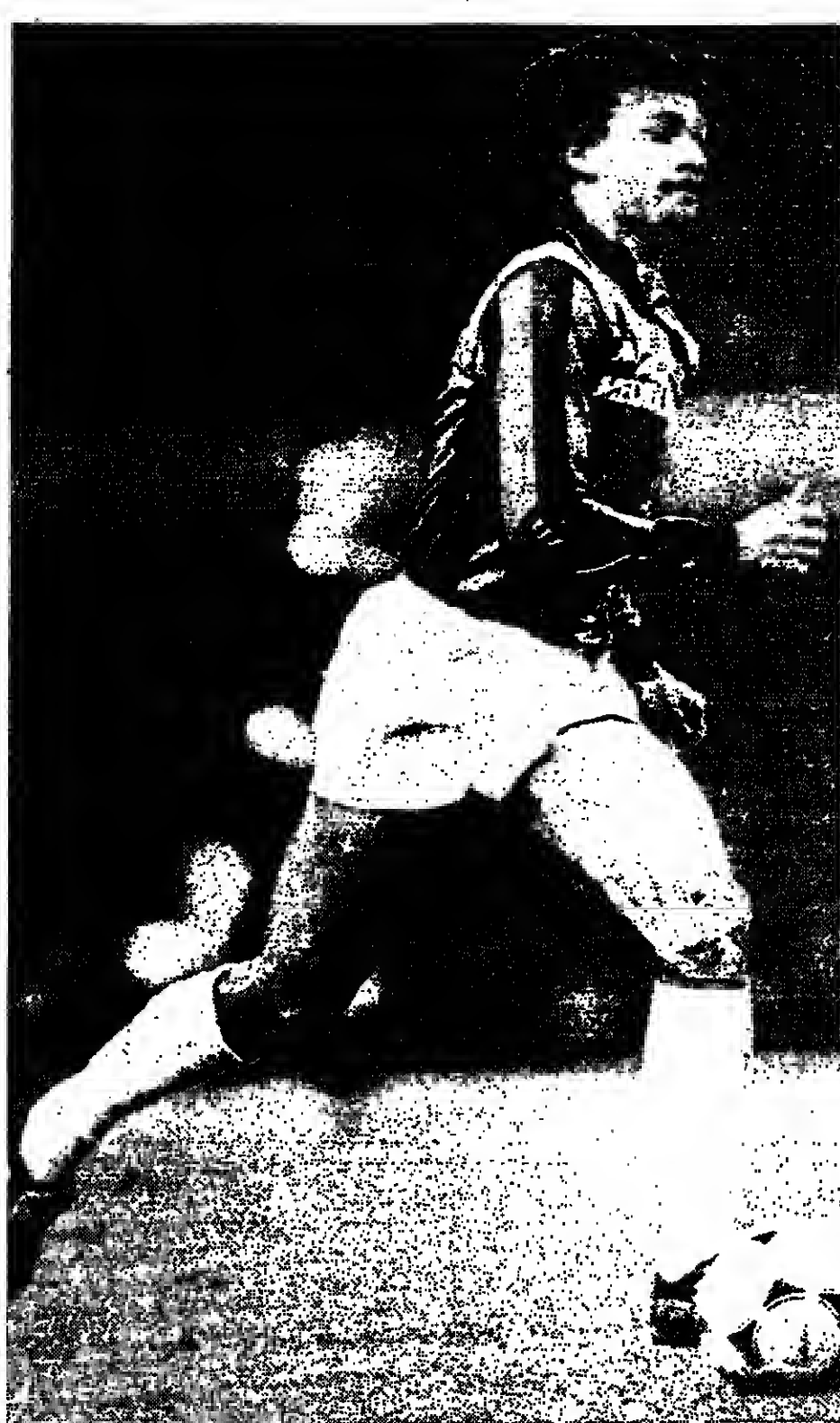
Steaua's uncertainty lies in finding an adequate replacement in mid-field for the gifted Dumitrescu, suspended

following two bookings. The role is expected to go to Balan or Balint, who both came on as substitutes in the semi-final against Galatasaray.

Although Steaua lost their centre back, Belodedici, who defected to Yugoslavia, his place has been amply filled by Petrescu; while Lung, who was omitted from last week's international against Bulgaria to avoid the risk of injury, Steaua have the best of Eastern European goalkeepers. We wait to see how they will respond to Milan's "pressing": the technique of attempting to regain possession from opposing defenders while the ball is still in their half of the field.

Barcelona was yesterday backing in sunshine, a fierce onshore wind swirling the dust and debris above the traffic in the streets, frolicking with the ladies' skirts, and buffeting the armada of aeroplanes touching down every few minutes from Italy. Some 70,000 supporters are arriving by road, rail and air from Milan for what will seem almost a home match.

There are no supporters from Bucharest, allegedly as a protest by the Romanians against UEFA over ticket allocation, though I'm not sure how many Romanians could have afforded the trip. Steaua apparently applied initially for 25,000 tickets. UEFA queried this, Steaua having taken only a thousand spectators to Seville three years ago. Steaua said they would be distributing tickets through travel agencies, but were told they could sell their allocation only in Romania. It seems there was exploitation afoot.



Leading figure: much depends on whether Gullit, of AC Milan, has recovered from injury

## Preston's fire brings a cool response from FA

The Football Association is unlikely to hold an investigation into the incident during Monday night's Preston North End v Port Vale game when a small fire began on the terracing at Deepdale (see report p. 48).

The third division play-off was held up for eight minutes after several hundred Port Vale supporters spilled over perimeter fencing and onto the pitch.

The referee, Joe Worrell, led both teams away to the dressing-rooms as police ashered supporters away from the vicinity of the blaze. No one was injured.

"We shall await the arrival of

the referee's report in the first instance. From this distance it does not look as though it needs immediate investigation but it will be looked into in due course," an FA spokesman said.

"Although the incident was not a particularly serious one, we are obviously not happy," Derek Allan, the Preston secretary, said.

Keith Leeming, the club chairman, believes the incident has done nothing to support the argument for the removal of perimeter fences. He believes that the potential disaster proves that fences do not have to mean a risk to lives.

## Wright fit again for Palace

By Louise Taylor

Crystal Palace hope home advantage will help them come the 1-0 handicap they incurred in losing at Swindon Town on Sunday. The Londoners are heartened by the news that Ian Wright, their leading scorer with 20 goals, has recovered from an ankle injury for the second division promotion play-off semi-final, second leg.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, believes that his team has a psychological advantage as they travel to Vicarage Road after Sunday's goalless draw with Watford at Wood Park in the other second division semi-final.

"I was disappointed we did not take our chances on Sun-

day," he said. "But that game is now totally irrelevant. Watford will be only too aware of the consequences of conceding a goal and it is up to us to break them down." He is expected to field an unchanged side. Watford delay selection.

In the fourth division, Scunthorpe United must attempt to turn a 3-1 defeat at Wrexham on Saturday into victory, but they may be without Daws, their leading scorer with 27 goals, who has an ankle injury.

Leyton Orient defend a 2-0 lead at Scarborough where Colin Morris, the home manager, said: "I am going to play 11 forwards and nail our goal up."

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## Irish may call up extra man

Versatility is the keyword in the 16-strong Irish League squad for the five-match, 13-day tour of the United States and Trinidad in July, announced yesterday by Roy Coyle, the team manager (George Ace writes). And an extra player may be added to the party next Friday.

IRISH LEAGUE SQUAD: D. Doherty (Limerick), M. Keane (Portsmouth), T. McMillan (Limerick), J. Curran (Portsmouth), P. Byrne (Gloucester), T. Moore (Gloucester), R. Jeffery (Limerick), S. Brown (Gloucester), P. Walsby (Gloucester), W. Conboy (Gloucester), P. Walsby (Gloucester), S. Brown (Gloucester), O. O'Brien (Limerick), M. Keane (Portsmouth), O. McCarty (Gloucester), O. Ferris (Gloucester).

THIRTEEN: July 4 v New Jersey Eagles (New Jersey), July 5 v Fort Lauderdale Strikers (Florida), July 6 v Trinidad and Tobago national team (Port of Spain), July 7 v Poland, July 8 v United States (both matches in New Britain, Connecticut).

## New heavyweight hope starts out on the Tyson trail

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Lennox Lewis, Britain's newest heavyweight, thinks he can succeed where Frank Bruno failed. He plans to relieve Mike Tyson of his world heavyweight title. He believes he will be ready for the job in three years' time.

Lewis, who won the Olympic gold medal at Seoul for Canada, will train under American supervision in the Catskill mountains, outside New York. Frank Maloney, his manager, said he had been given carte blanche by a group of City financiers to bring the world title back to Britain.

Lewis, who is 6ft 5in and weighs 16st, will be trained by John Davenport, who is Carl "The Truth" Williams's trainer. Davenport, a former Marine drill sergeant is a disciplinarian with something of the reputation of the martinet in the film, *Full Metal Jacket*. Yes, Sir.

The Catskills will be familiar ground to Lewis, for Lewis spent a week sparring with Tyson in 1983, when the world champion was 18 years old. Lewis was 17. "Tyson was very aggressive," Lewis said. "My boxing was movement and so every time he stepped into the ring he tried to take my head off. Tyson's style is effective but right now he's on sticky ground."

"He is my goal. I have always had goals. The world junior championship and the Olympic title." His other goals are to win the British title in a year's time, the Canadian title and the European. He leaves for New York today to start work under Davenport.

Though he is a Canadian, Lewis is also very much English, having been born in Forest Gate of Jamaica parents. He moved to Kitchener, Ontario, with his mother, Violet, in 1978. He was expected to face the former British champion, Trevor Curry, but Maloney turned it down because if Lewis won he would immediately be elevated to the top four in the division. His first bout will be a six-rounder on June 27 at the Albert Hall against one of three British heavyweights, Al Malcolm, Steve Garber or John Westgarth.

In July he will be able to take a good look at Tyson as he will be boxing on the Tyson-Williams undercard. His opponent will be found by Maloney's agents in the United States, the Houston Boxing Association. Lewis will commute between the HBA's gym in the Catskills and the Henry Cooper gym, his training headquarters down the Old Kent Road, London.

GLIDING

## British lag on fifth day tasks

By a Special Correspondent

British pilots produced disappointing results in the first mountain task on the fifth day of the world championships at Wiener Neustadt, Austria, despite conditions being to their liking.

Justin Wells finished seventeenth in the 15-metre class at 68.6kph, just ahead of his compatriot, Chris Garton, at 64kph.

In the standard class, Andy Davis, of Britain, completed the 246km triangle in 22nd place at 60.2kph and Martyn Wells landed out putting himself further out of contention. In the Open 327km triangle, the Britons, Robin May and Ralph Jones, finished sixteenth and seventeenth respectively.

RESULTS: Fifth day: Open 1, J. C. Lopez (Fr.), 69.2kph; 2, H. Binder (Switz), 68.3kph; 3, J. Buchmann (Austria), 68.2kph; 4, R. May (Fr.), 68.2kph; 5, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 6, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 7, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 8, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 9, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 10, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 11, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 12, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 13, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 14, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 15, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 16, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 17, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 18, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 19, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 20, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 21, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 22, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 23, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 24, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 25, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 26, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 27, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 28, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 29, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 30, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 31, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 32, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 33, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 34, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 35, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 36, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 37, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 38, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 39, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 40, R. Jones, 68.2kph; 41, R. 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